Daily Report

Latin America

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ODCA Congress Ends, Denounces Noriega

PA0711043589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0138 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota, 6 Nov (EFE)— The 13th Congress of the Christian Democratic Organization of America (ODCA) ended its 3-day session today with the installation of Venezuelan Hilarion Cardozo as secretary general and former Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena as president of that continental group.

Chavez Mena replaces Renan Fuentalba Moena, a Chilean who has held that post since 1986.

The congress, which was devoted to peace, approved two regional political proposals that will be presented before the end of 1989 to the Latin American sections of the International Socialist, Liberal, and Democrat organizations.

ODCA Secretary General Cardozo told EFE that for the "real integration of Latin America," ODCA proposes the creation of a "senate of the Americas" as a permanent forum for a concerted political effort.

This senate, to be made up of distinguished former presidents of this continent who would be members for life, would try "to overcome obstacles to achieve this integration—obstacles that have been used in political rhetoric but that are very unrealistic," Cardozo added.

ODCA also approved a proposal for the signing of "an inter-American pact for the defense of democratic rights" to "protect the people's option for democracy on this continent.

This "pact" recognizes, for the first time, "the people's right to rebel," a clause especially drafted for the Panamanian case, Cardozo announced.

The ODCA congress' final resolutions include a "special recognition" of the "Panamanian people and their desire for democracy" and a "formal repudiation" of the "dictatorship" of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces.

Most of the discussions at the meeting of Christian Democratic parties, which began on 4 November, were centered on an analysis of the "Christian Democratic view" of the continent's main problems: foreign debt, violence, and development.

The following nine regional vice presidents were also elected: Carlos Blancas Bustamantes, president of the Peruvian Christian Democratic Party, is the new vice president for the Andean region; Canoabo Javier Castill of the Dominican Republic, vice president for the Caribbean region; and Catalina Soberanis of Guatemala, vice president for the Central American region.

The 14th ODCA congress will be held in 1992.

Cuba

Castro Calls Presidential Summit 'A Joke'

PA0211185089 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1118 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Interview with President Fidel Castro by Isa Dobles of Venezuelan television and Candido Perez at the Japanese Gardens in Havana; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Dobles] The first thing that comes to my mind as I greet and thank you for this interview, is that as I listened to you talk about this garden to all the friends who were here this afternoon—including the Venezuelan group—is how didactical and affectionate you are when you talk. This always moves us very much. In Venezuela you were interviewed many times, and, of course, your answers were almost mechanical.

I would like to hear from that man who I heard speaking today; the man who talked about the humanization of cities and men. How important is that to a man who has lived all these years after the revolution as a man, as a human being?

[Castro] I believe that this is decisive, but not determining. If we do not work for that, what would work be for? Would it be worthy to get all the headaches that we get as politicians and revolutionaries if we lacked a very strong motivation?

However, before going into that, I must explain to you—because you said that I like to speak in a way so that people can understand me; that I am pedagogical and didactical—the secret is simple: I try first to understand things, and as I understand them I try to explain them. Many people [Castro chuckles] speak about things they do not understand and thus, they cannot explain them. However, I do not know how I would manage if I did not understand a problem that I was referring to.

I think about it, understand it—many times they are scientific topics. Then I explain it just as I have understood it. That is not too difficult. Many people do this. Perhaps you do it everyday, perhaps several times a day. Do you think that you could explain something that you do not understand?

[Dobles] Yes, you are right. Just as I maintain that one cannot love, unless one knows what love is, one cannot speak of something that one does not know. This is all part of what you are saying. Now how important Fidel, is it to really get involved in all these theoretical aspects. You have a way in which you get the people around you involved. For instance, you made a mistake concerning a date when you said July, no, August, and then someone answered and you said no it was not that far ahead. You establish a plan.

[Castro] Well, we all make mistakes. I made a mistake by saying that it was August, when it was really July. But at another moment, Comrade Angelita, the director of the botanical garden, gave me the information. She said it was in 1987 when she spoke to the Japanese, and I said no.

[Dobles] It was not in 1987?

[Castro] No, it was in 1988, because when she spoke to the Japanese or the Japanese spoke to her and proposed the idea, by the time she informed me a lot of time had transpired. And when I was informed, I agreed and we started to work quickly. The Japanese worked on one hand and we worked on the other. When I say Japanese, I mean the magnificent ambassador of Japan that we have here. It took some time. On 1 January 1989 we began to work. On 25 October 1989 it was inaugurated.

[Dobles] You could say a beautiful child was born because it took 9 months.

[Castro] Yes, it took 9 months.

[Dobles] Without a Caesarean.

[Castro] Yes, without a Caesarean.

[Dobles] Fidel, how do you memorize things. All of the men and politicians who talk about you, even the newsmen, say that you are a walking computer. How do to you manage to protect your brain, the power of your computer?

[Fidel] All it takes is practice. I forget a lot of things. I can be given a telephone number and if I am not too interested, I will forget the number. I think it takes practice, and the need to make your mind think. I think that the mind is like the body. One has to exercise it. If the muscles become stiff because they are not used, the mind can also become stagnant. Here one can associate the two types of exercise, physical and mental. In my opinion, physical exercise helps the mind. This perhaps is related to the fact that the brain has cells, the cells require oxygen, physical exercise calls for more blood and oxygen to flow to the brain. That is why the recommendation that I would make to anyone more or less around my age—which I believe is not too old when compared to Methuselah—[laughter] I could be compared to a kindergarten child. He is said to have lived 700 years. I would recommend to people of any age—especially so if they are over 50 and more so if they are over 60—to engage in physical exercise. I personally have found that physical exercise is good for the mind; it aids mental effort and puts the mind in better condition. But, at the same time, mental exercise is also indispensable. I submit myself to tests constantly. During a meeting of the executive committee we discuss five or six points. Sometimes we discuss more. I am talking of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers. Sometimes we go beyond the points on the agenda, later I may add two more for each one, with different topics, different programs. I ask how they are developing and progressing. I demand that the ministers be up to date on all the programs and topics. It is as if they are going to be tested any day. That is what they do in school sometimes when students are asked questions.

I customarily ask people questions about what they are doing and ask them to report on it. I am constantly asking questions. I believe that is called the Socratic method. I did not learn it in a book, I learned it by practice.

I ask many questions—constantly, everywhere. I do not simply read about a topic; I also learn about it. One day I read about agricultural topics, another day about scientific topics, another day about medical topics, another day about construction topics, and another day about education topics. I know a lot about those topics because I ask a lot of questions, I meditate on these problems, and I am interested in these problems.

I believe that your interest is an element that helps you memorize things. I have an example: The telephone. You write down a telephone number and you forget it. If you are really interested in the telephone number for any particular reason then you memorize the telephone number. I handle a lot of information and all kinds of figures about the country and the population—economic and social information—because this is something I think about a lot, and because I am very interested in this. This is the main essence of my work.

You may ask a question. Ask the question. Why do the people feel no surprise when a violinist is capable of playing Beethoven or any famous musician on his violin, or piano—many times without having a score in front of him. What do the musicians do? Many times they have the whole score and I imagine....[changes thought] I do not know much about this but I imagine that those symphonies must have many notes—perhaps as many as the figures I have on public health, or more.

Just think! If a politician does not know anything about this or if a musician does not memorize the score...!

[Dobles] It is true, some of them do not memorize the score.

[Castro] They are not doing their job or they are not interested in the problem.

[Dobles] There is a passion that is shared by many men. It is the passion for Latin America. You have this passion and historically many men, such as Marti and Bolivar, have also felt it. This passion has been present throughout history. I have always wanted to ask Fidel Castro, what is it he feels for Latin America? The question is not political, but rather it is asking what your feelings and concerns are for Latin America.

[Castro] I believe your question is a normal one because we all sense and constantly perceive that we are all one and the same; that we belong to the same family. It is almost instinctive. I would say that Bolivar's plans for America and for its integration are [words indistinct] from instinct and intuition. Bolivar clearly understood that his country alone could not resolve all its problems and difficulties, and that unity was required to gain the strength each country had. That is to say, his thoughts were almost instinctive. I would say that Bolivar acted instinctively. He saw and felt this reality. He perceived it as a vital need. That which he perceived continues to be true now and is even more urgent. The years that have elapsed with a divided America have increasingly shown that he was right. Well, I believe that both Bolivar and Marti acted instinctively. Their actions were not only based on feelings but were instinctive. You know, instincts become feelings.

Instinctively, Marti saw the need for Cuba's independence, the need for unity, and even Latin America's need for Cuba to become independent. In one of Marti's last letters, just prior to his death, he stated that all the efforts he had made to further Cuba's independence were to stop the United States from gaining further strength in America. He perceived there was a threat that Cuba could become a U.S. colony. He perceived the threat that Cuba would follow Puerto Rico's steps. He said this at the end of his life and accepted the fact that it had been the main objective in his actions.

As all true and sincere Latin American statesmen, Bolivar also placed great importance on the matter of integration. Each in his own period, Bolivar, as well as Marti, saw the need for unity. However, the task was more difficult then because there was a lack of communication. Unity requires communication and you already know how long it took for a letter to get from Caracas to Bogota, Santiago de Chile, or Buenos Aires. I do not recall but I guess it took approximately two months if it went by sea and if it got there. There were no telephones, no radio, no television, no nothing. Communities were totally isolated from one another; they were separated by mountains, rivers, the Amazon....

[Dobles, interrupting] But, there were special names. There was no microwave or satellites but there were special men who had principles and ideals. Men who did not care how long a letter took to get to its destination existed, men who had ideals in common and placed them before anything else. If this were not so, we could not explain how a man crossed the Andes, you could not explain....

[Castro, interrupting] Undoubtedly, they were men who had great ideals. They had great ideals but they also perceived the need—they were men who had many needs. How could they attain Venezuela's independence if the Spaniards and their Armies were in neighboring Colombia.

If Colombia was not liberated Venezuelans could not feel secure either. Once Colombia was liberated and the Spaniards were in Ecuador, they also did not feel secure. They also felt the need... [changes thought] Look, they not only had ideas, they had great ideas. They were men of great ideals and intentions...

[Dobles] Of great dedication.?

[Castro] They were very dedicated. However, they had real needs. Once Ecuador had gained its independence,

they found out the Spaniards were also in Peru. Therefore, they did not feel secure after they gained independence until the entire continent was independent. They wanted the independence of the entire continent. They were not concerned just about the independence of their province.

[Dobles] They had an overall view.

[Castro] They were not concerned just about the independence of part of Latin America. They were very idealistic. However, things were more difficult at that time. Attaining unity was difficult. The means of communication available today such as radio and television did not exist at that time. Such excellent media available today, which unite people very much, did not exist at that time. However, we have greater needs today.

[Dobles] Is this why you....

[Castro] Nowadays we do not have the Spaniards, yet we have our neighbor.

[Dobles] We have the debt.

[Castro] We have the northern neighbor who does not want us to be united, it does not want us to be united. They are not interested at all in our unity. They would rather deal with isolated countries because it is much easier to maintain the neocolonial system in a divided Latin America. Do you understand? They do not want to know about our unity. You see, we Latin Americans hardly ever hold meetings.

[Dobles] I was going to ask you...

[Castro interrupting] We Latin Americans hardly ever meet. I pointed this out during the discussions on the debt. I have discussed this matter with several Latin American leaders. I have asked them: Why do you not hold meetings. Why do we not hold meetings to at least have a united force with which we can argue. All African leaders meet at least twice a year, all European leaders meet almost every month, yet Latin Americans do not dare to hold meetings.

[Dobles] They do not dare to meet with you, because what they just did....

[Castro interrupting] Leave me aside. They do not dare to hold meetings unless the United States summons them. Historically, the United States is the only one who has summoned them. If Carter summons them to a meeting, everyone goes. If a U.S. President summons for a meeting, everyone goes without exception. The United States does not want to hold such meetings. U.S. presidents do not want to hold meetings with Latin American leaders. I have proposed there should be no exceptions. This should be like the United Nations, where no one is excluded. The Nonaligned Movement does not exclude anyone either. For example, the nonaligned—and we are used to that—include the most varied kinds of political systems and governments. The nonaligned has kings, emperors.

When Haile Selassie was the emperor of Ethiopia, it was a member of the Nonaligned Movement. He was followed by a revolutionary government. The movement is open to governments of the most varied political and social systems. We are used to holding meetings and to respecting each other at meetings. We have to meet. The United Nations includes all of us and one is free to listen to the others' speeches, with much interest or with not too much interest. One cannot say: I am not going there because the president of the United States, the president of South Korea, and Pinochet are in the United Nations. Nonexclusion is a characteristic of international organizations.

[Dobles] What is your personal opinion of Cuba's exclusion from the Costa Rica meeting?

[Castro] It is not a meeting, it is a makeshift meeting. It is a joke. It is not serious at all. Bush does not want anything discussed there. If he is asked about discussing the debt, he says he does not want to discuss the debt there and that the debt must be discussed bilaterally. He wants no issues and no speeches. This is a meeting without exchanges of opinion, without discussions, without agenda, and without any serious issue, so this is not a meeting, it is a makeshift meeting. This is the most that can be said of it. It is a show around Arias. I know Arias. I have talked with him. I spoke with him in Venezuela. When he speaks with me he is very friendly, he does it correctly, and he does not find it to be a capital sin. Now he has his little meeting and he pays me the honor, really, of excluding me. Why should I say something else? Instead of feeling disgust...[sentence incomplete as heard]

But we are not going to put all the blame on him. If he was to tell Bush that he is inviting me, Bush would never go to that meeting, would not even come close to the area.

Bush did want Pinochet to go. I know this. Costa Rica was pressured in that direction, but Arias needed a fig leaf so he said: No, no, and he excluded three or four countries.

If he had invited me, he would have placed me in a difficult position, because I like serious affairs. Out of courtesy I could have gone, if he had invited me. Out of courtesy one can go to a meeting, to celebrate something. Lately I am being invited to presidential inaugurations. I have not been able to go to all of them, but I have gone to some. This meeting, however, is a joke.

Bush does not want anything discussed there.

[Dobles] Commander, one argument for excluding Cuba is that Cuba is not a democratic country. This goes in between quotation marks because judging from what I have noticed here, with the Cuban companeros, and from what I have been able to see, there is full liberty in many respects. What do you think of this situation?

[Castro] First we have to know what democracy is: It is government of the people, for the people, and by the

people. The government of an oligarchy, for the oligarchy, and by the oligarchy is not a government of the people. That is a totally cheap story.

They call the United States a democracy. How many poor people live there? To be a politician in the United States, one must first be a millionaire, a big one. One must also spend who knows how much money and resources. That is the way things are. How many poor people are in the U.S. Government? How many workers, how many blacks are in the U.S. Government? Once in a while you may find one who is placed in that position to make an impression.

There is demagoguery going on in the United States. Actually, the United States is an empire and the U.S. President is more powerful than a Roman emperor. You cannot compare the power of the U.S. President with the power any of us may have.

Here we have a party, a party directorate, a politburo, and an organized directorate. We have all of that, but in the United States, Bush may declare a world war by himself without consulting anyone. Bush carries around a briefcase that has the codes that are needed to order a nuclear war. A nuclear war is the end of the world.

I can honestly tell you that here in Latin America there is no political system that has more contacts with the people than the Cuban Government. We have constant contact with the people. I am not an individual sitting in an office. I am an individual who is on the streets, in factories, in schools, in hospitals, and in scientific research centers. I am everywhere. One day, someone was mentioning the word president. I told him: I am not a president. He said: Who are you, then? I said: I am an individual walking around.

I find the idea of possessing apparent power very strange. I see government as a service to the people, as slavery for the people. We are told, why do you stay so long? Because the people want it that way. If the people did not want it that way, it would be impossible for us to stay. In our country it is not the Army who has the weapons, it is the people, the workers. All the workers, the peasants, and the students are armed. Imagine what would happen if the people did not like the revolutionary government, the socialist government, or me in my post.

At the beginning of the revolution I resigned. That got me into a lot of trouble. I am not a demagogue. It is not like a person doing this so that the people will beg him to stay. There was a crisis. Urrutia was president of Cuba at that time. I did not want to use force—that never entered my mind—to resolve the crisis. What I did was resign from the post I had. This produced chaos. The people demanded my return. I was very serious when I resigned, but I had no alternative except to return.

I am deeply dedicated to work. What is our secret? We are deeply dedicated to work and I will continue working for as long as the people want. The people are in power here, not me—the people are in power. I cannot say like Louis XIV: I am the state. Here, the people are the state.

How could a socialist system ask the people to make efforts and sacrifices, and ask the workers to work more, the construction contingents to work 14 hours a day, the people to develop the country, the students to study more, the scientists to do more research, and the doctors to work more, if the people were not in favor of cooperating in that direction and if the people did not see the use of it. It is unimaginable.

I do not feel like the holder of power. I have been awarded titles and I have rejected them. I do not like that. Well, in an event like today's I accept being called Your Excellency Mr President. However, here everyone calls me Fidel. I am everyone's neighbor in this country. I am almost like the wind. There is a saying: I am from everywhere and I am going everywhere. That is the way I am. That is my work for as long as the people want it and as long as I find what I am doing useful. The people wanting it is not enough. If at a given moment I find that what I do is not useful, I will stop. I feel like a slave.

Talk to the pope. Ask him what he does. What does he do? He tours the world, he goes everywhere. No one is questioning the pope. I am not comparing myself with him or anything like that. His work is respected. It is seen as a mission, as a task. He moves here and there and everywhere and he is not the target of any epithet [words indistinct] excluded, because it is an honor. I do not go to meetings where nothing is going to be discussed. Some have said that they are not going because they do not like fooling around. Some are not going out of respect for themselves. Cuba is not going. What for? Why go to the Costa Rica meeting?

[Dobles] Is it possible for Cuba to return to the OAS within the framework of the changes in Latin America?

[Castro] Yes, that is possible; our foreign minister made a statement about that. During a... [hesitates] during an interview with a Mexican newspaper I was categorical. I talked about it in Venezuela. I categorically said that if the Latin American countries want it, I will go along with it. If they deem it advisable for Cuba to join the OAS, even though the OAS offended us, attacked us, expelled us, mistreated us, trampled on us, and did everything to us, we will not act in an emotional and rancorous manner with the OAS. If the OAS is something new, and if new trends emerge in Latin American—no doubt, very strong trends toward independence are emerging, because many Latin American governments have an attitude very different from what they had at that time, because there are more independent and self-respecting governments—if these governments, such as the Group of Eight, in interpreting the feelings of Latin America, say that we must return to the OAS, we are disciplined, we endorse unity and integrity. We respect the views of those governments; if they feel we must join the OAS, we will.

Now, they must tell us how one joins. We do not know. We have forgotten how one joins the OAS. They should tell us about the entire process. The day they tell us to join, we will join, but we really do not know the process to join the OAS; we will have to ask the other governments that have repeatedly stated their views. We say yes, and more than that, we appreciate the attitude and we deem it constructive. For that reason, we are ready to cooperate.

[Dobles] When you said...

[Castro, interrupts] They should tell us how, lest they say: Well, what does the United States say. The United States may or may not veto this. In sum, we need elements of judgement to know what steps we must take. At least, the United States has been silent. We do not know if they have veto power, and what the process is. Some feel that the process entails revoking the resolution that excludes us. We have no vote at the OAS, we cannot fix anything. It is up to the Latin American governments to propose it at the OAS. What can we do? We do what we can, which is to gladly say yes and that we respect the criteria and feeling and are willing to follow the idea.

[Dobles] You said that this mission is truly difficult and a constant challenge. Is your mission to serve, to serve your country and Latin America, your passion as well? Could you live (?that passion)?

[Castro] Of course, [words indistinct] passion. It cannot be thought of otherwise. First of all for my country; this is logical because I was born here. I feel a historic need that stems from a feeling of unity. I feel it is unavoidable and a must for the future and the development of our people to occupy a place in the world, that we must work and strive for unity and integration. I feel a passion for the things of Latin America. I feel it. I feel it for the people of Latin America, for the history of Latin America, and the culture of Latin America. I feel passion for its leaders. I feel love for that cause, which we could describe as a union. Well, we have felt this even beyond Latin America because no one else has worked for the men of another continent as we have in Africa. In Africa, for example, we even shed our own blood to defend the cause of the African countries. In reality, Guillermo, our doctors and technicians are working in dozens of countries, for free. They are assisting those people. This responds to a Cuban feeling, but also to an ideology. Our ideology is internationalist and solidary by definition. I understand that nationalism has been a great step forward for the people compared to the tribal feeling and all that, but internationalism has a greater scope. Ideologically and conceptually, not only for a feeling and the conviction that this is needed, I also feel passion for the efforts of the people of Latin American. I can also tell you I feel this passion for the Third World, for all the countries the development of which could best be described as underdevelopment. There is so-called underdevelopment because there is an ever-widening gap between underdevelopment and so-called development. The former are not undeveloped, but underdeveloped. However, poverty [words indistinct] and in Latin America, 700,000 children who could be saved according to WHO and the Pan-American Health Organization figures.

All of these children died of curable, preventable diseases. They are not those who must die due to congenital malformation incompatible with life and who have no hope of living. This malformation can be in the heart or any other organ. The fact is, as we have demonstrated, that of every 1,000 children born in Latin America every year, 990 could be saved.

When the revolution won in Cuba, the country had a mortality rate of 60 or 70 percent. Last year, we reached 11.9 percent and this year we expect to be in the 11 percent range—11.1, 11.2, 11, or 10.9. We decreased our mortality rate almost a full point this year. I believe that we will decrease the mortality rate to less than 10 percent within the next 3 years. We already have a province in the countryside, Cienfuegos, that has a 6-percent mortality rate and Havana should be getting to 9.9 percent or somewhere less than 10 percent. The highest rate I have calculated for Havana is 10 or 10.1 percent.

This year, the city of Washington will have had an average of 33 children dead for each 1,000 that were born alive. This means that we, Cuba, the small island under blockade and is enslaved—as they say— will have a mortality rate in its capital city that is a third of the rate to be recorded in the capital of the democratic empire of the United States. I do not know what they do in the United States. There is no excuse for Washington to have three times the Cuban mortality rate this year with the amount of technological resources, scientific knowledge, and money they have. These are figures that shed light on the subject and point to the core of the matter and not to appearances. What is it we were talking about?

[Dobles, laughs] About passion. I asked you about the challenge, the passion that this repesents, and still

[Castro, interrupts] We ended up here.

[Dobles] You ended up there. I do not know how! [laughs]

[Castro] You provoked me!

[Perez] Commander, I wanted to ask you something. The Soviet Union has opened its doors to foreign capitals, it has allowed athletes to become professionals, and so on—all within the policy they call perestroyka. Do you believe that this idea, this perestroyka is contrary to the principles of Marxism-Leninism?

[Castro] According to the Soviets, no.

[Perez] And according to Fidel?

[Castro] According to Fidel—for Cuba—yes, it is contrary to the principles of Marxism-Leninism. I will not judge because it is not convenient for us to judge what is being done over there. We have to place ourselves in our little piece of the world, to think about Cuba, to think about our experience, to think about our interpretations of Marxism-Leninism—and I say that we would not do many of these things. I am not talking about all of them. No. Maybe the idea is to accept some foreign capital in a certain way, under certain conditions, with a firm... [changes thought] this is acceptable because the countries' development really needs capital.

This is how we interpret it: If you have the natural resources, work force, and technical force, but need the capital—capital does not fall from the sky like manna and technology cannot be invented overnight even though technology must be invented—then you can admit the presence of foreign capital in certain activities.

To tell you the truth, we do not need foreign capital to produce sugar in a sugar mill or to develop a new sugar product, we know that. We have the equipment; we have the land and we know how to till it; we have the water and we can use it to irrigate and improve the soil—we do not need foreign capital. I think it would be absurd for us to bring foreign capital for a sugar mill, because it is something we are capable of doing on our own.

If you ask me, perhaps in an area....[changes thought] there might be a certain area in which we do not have the technology and the capital—and if we have the natural resources and the work force, then we can accept a technology by creating a firm in the country. The country would be contributing something and it could accept foreign investment, with the corresponding profits and all such things.

In tourism, for example, you will find that very often, at this very moment, there is a surplus of capital in the world. There are surpluses.

The countries that possess and monopolize gold and money have a surplus of capital and very often do not know what to do with it. They do not want to lend it because they believe that if they lend it they will lose it. Therefore, they try to invest that surplus in different activities. I believe that some of these activities take place in third world countries and even in Cuba, a socialist country.

Cuba has enormous natural resources for tourism. Enormous ones. However, we need capital for tourism.

In the field of tourism we can accept up to a 50-percent share of the business. We even make more concessions. We do not require them to pay taxes. No one else can offer those benefits. The merchandise that will be used for the hotel's operation may be brought into the country and it is tax free. They do not have to pay profit taxes. We are associates.

We have abundant tourism resources. We have a world that is anxious for some fresh air and sun. We have a world that is terrified by pollution. I am respectful of the countries, but jumping into the Mediterranean Sea is like diving into a chemical well because 140,000 industries dump their waste in the waters that flow to the Mediterranean Sea. Actually, today not even the fish can live in those waters.

Fortunately, we still have the gulf currents which are pretty healthy surrounding us. We have fresh air and water and we have beautiful beaches. Cuba alone has more beaches than all the other Caribbean countries put together.

[Dobles] What countries have accepted this?

[Castro] Some countries and some firms have already accepted. Some people have asked me what the guarantees are and I have told them it is the mutual benefit. Many of these businessmen have the capital, they have the experience, and they have influence over the tourism market. What do we contribute? We contribute the climate and the natural resources. All construction labor is done by us. We contribute the labor force and the construction material manufactured in the country.

Sometimes they draft the plans, sometimes we draft the plans. They pay for the material that must be imported. Sometimes they import some of the equipment that is needed for the construction of the hotels. They import nontechnical hotel equipment. Each hotel needs elevators of a certain quality; each hotel needs generators of a certain quality; each hotel needs air conditioners of a certain quality; and each hotel needs sophisticated material for its construction. Investments are approximately 50 percent. Profits are directly proportional to the investments, up to a maximum of 50 percent. Quite often, the administration allows the firm to do certain things because it has more experience.

We would not allow them to manage a sugar mill because we know how to do that. However, we tell them to manage the hotel. We tell them to take their time. That is how our hotel construction is organized. Next year, there will be some hotels in a mixed association with us. I would say thousands of millions [no currency given] could be invested in this field. If no investment is made, we could do it, but at a slower pace because we are already building dozens of hotels with our own capital. We have a clear example of a possible cooperation with a socialist country. Let us be practical. I believe the Soviets must also have lots of natural resources for which they do not have capital or technology. They accept associations of this type despite their lack of capital, technology, and markets. Now, to tell you the truth, I could never build a beer factory. I do not know if this is Marxism or not. Lenin did not have time to do many things and he accepted some of these things. Some of the things in life should not be presented as a contradiction between Marxism-Leninism and what is being done. However, here in Cuba, we would not build a hamburger

factory to be sincere, unless they tell me: let's build a small hamburger factory to learn how hamburgers are made. I would say: fine, I agree. Let us learn, because anyone can make a McDonald's hamburger. We can make them even better than McDonald's.

Everyone knows the exact recipe needed to make a McDonald's hamburger.

However, I do not think that we should manufacture something for domestic consumption. I believe it is reasonable for a developing country—socialist countries are developing countries—to save its resources and its foreign exchange and use it for development purposes.

It is quite reasonable to have mixed enterprises and foreign capital to be exported. However, from a realistic point of view, with the conscience of a developing country, I do not believe it makes any sense to have a mixed enterprise manufacture articles for domestic consumption. I believe we should manufacture goods to be exported. Some of these ideas may seem Marxist-Leninist to some of us because since we consider ourselves Marxist-Leninist and we are leading a revolution, this sort of thing happens.

I believe that amateur sports date back to ancient Greece. I have not read much about this but I believe that Olympic Games participants were not professional athletes. I have heard that the centennial of the first Olympic Games in 1898 will soon be marked. The Greeks organized the Olympic Games and since then sports have been viewed as a healthy activity; not as a professional activity.

In our country, baseball championships involve the entire population; millions of people participate. We need foreign currency and we have great players. I ask myself: How much would we be paid for this player if we exported him? [laughter] However, I am just joking around when I say this because we cannot export our players. They are our people's idols. We could send them to the professional ranks—and we produce more players than any country and good players, too—if we wanted, we could become an exporter of players [laughter]. We could even justify this on the grounds that they would be involved in activities to benefit a child care center. However, our players are our people's idols; how could we sell them? Our players are great people because they could be millionaires in the United States, but they have rejected offers. We have had boxers who could have been millionaires.

They have set an admirable example for us of what it is like to be a human being; of what Socialism, human solidarity, loyalty to a cause, and loyalty to the country are. They are our people's idols and idols are not on sale. Professional sports counter the best tradition of sports; we disagree with them. However, we respect them. If the Soviets want to have them, they should do it. That is their business. We cannot rule the USSR. They have the right to do whatever they want.

You asked me about sports and mixed societies. I explained to you what we think about them. You asked about foreign capital and about sports. In other words, we respect what they do; we respect what you do. I cannot say here that all your businesses should be nationalized or that you should not denationalize any businesses. Privatization and denationalization are fashionable now. If you chose to do that, we should not meddle. We must respect Venezuela's rights and the rights of Venezuelans to do what they deem appropriate.

I prefer that businesses be nationalized and state-owned. That is clear, obvious, and logical. However, with the foreign debt and the crisis, imperialism has managed to make denationalization of businesses fashionable. It has become fashionable throughout the world, but there is none of that here. I am being frank about this: We have no need to denationalize anything. We are very happy with our nationalized enterprises. What we want is to increasingly improve the operation of our enterprises. That is our goal.

[Perez] Commander, on one occasion there was an important meeting here to discuss the debt and the advisability that Latin American countries not pay their debts. However, most countries—following IMF instructions or guidelines—have paid or rather have changed their economic policy, and in some cases, this has given way to social disturbances as was the case in Venezuela and Argentina. How do you view the situation of those countries?

[Castro] I believe that this problem should have been solved in 1985. And not only this one; the problem of unequal exchange, which is the cause of the debt, should have also been solved. A new international economic order should have been applied. Latin America could have led this battle; it was prepared to do so but it failed to do so. There was a lack of historical foresight; there was a lack of confidence. What was missing?

[Dobles] Solidarity?

[Castro] It was evident ever since the 1985 meeting, which you mentioned, that we were strangled; that the debt should be erased. Not only erased, but that the unequal international economic order should disappear; protectionism and all those vile practices, which are used to loot our countries, had to disappear.

In addition to that, the new economic order established by the United Nations had to be implemented. We had to struggle for all of that, and we have not done it. That is the reason why we have such a catastrophic situation and a worsening social situation in Latin America. There is unemployment, there are problems in education and public health. The effects of the economic crisis become evident in all of these fields. The budget allotments for health, education, and development are being reduced; the economy does not grow, but the population grows. I tell you for a fact that the population grows. Our population, that does not grow too rapidly, is in fact growing.

Let me cite you an example. It is now 1989, and by this time in 1989 [as heard] we will have 600,000 people more than we have now. I have explained to the people that we must produce food for the new 600,000 people we will have within the next 5 years. In addition, this entails new social costs.

Every new child care center, every new school, every new workers' cafeteria that opens, needs an extra amount of food. In addition, the level of nourishment for the 10.4 million people we now have must be improved. That requires a development effort, and we do not have a birth rate of 2 or 2.5 percent. We also have to estimate how many dairy farms we must have, and how much milk those cows must produce in order to provide for those 600,000 new people in the country.

We estimate what the growing population will need. It may need, for example, 40 new dairy farms every year. You can estimate new food quotas for new child centers every year, vital quotas that the state provides gratuitously. We also estimate what is needed to improve the nutritional aspects of the current population of 10 million people for the next 10 years. We are planning all that: housing, schools, and food production to do better. And we are doing it while going through many difficulties since we also have problems because of all the forms of exploitation that exist, to which we can now add, those that could arise as a result of difficulties that could emerge in the socialist camp. This should not be forgotten. But in spite of that, we are working with a program and with estimates. We know what has to be done and produced to resolve the country's development problems.

[Dobles] There is lack of love and consideration among the countries and of authority in leaders. This is what hurts, Fidel. Everything is being discussed and said over and over, but there is lack of authority, of leadership. There is a lack of love and of loyalty. Decisions are not being made. One sees how the passion for sharing is crushed.

[Castro] I tell you the problem is very serious due to all of these things I was explaining to you. There are no plans, there are no programs. Everything is done by chance, everything is like a fortune game. It seems as if the fate of Latin America was being played like roulette. You bet on a number, and you spin the wheel to see if you win. And when the mathematics are done, you lose. It is a game of chance. What are the development programs?

[Dobles, interrupting] Because the croupier is....

[Castro, interrupting] We, at least, have a development program. The Japanese have a development program, and they are a capitalist country. The Latin American countries do not have development programs. Everything is left to chance. How many children will be born? How will they provided employment? Where are they going to live? Where are they going to school? What hospital will provide them treatment? How are they going to be fed? Everything is done by chance. It is like playing dice, or playing the roulette. Nobody knows what the results will be. The least a country can do is to plan its development based on the outlook that is evident. That is why I say we lost the best moment.

Ever since 1985, we have continued in this same agony. They have not paid nor have they allowed others to pay [sentence as heard]. That is the situation. The economies do not grow. All they have invented in this aspect has failed in one way or another. They have managed to get the Latin American countries to discuss issues by themselves; each one on his own. That is what they wanted. They have prevented the Latin Americans from discussing their problems jointly and united. That is why they have imposed on each country their own conditions.

That is a tragic situation. I say this is a dramatic situation. Just take a look at the statistics of population, employment, standards of living; of levels of education, of health, food, infant mortality; all of these issues we were talking about.

[Dobles] But, Fidel, what must be done so that the Latin American people will do something and will not continue in this game of chance, allowing themselves to be manipulated by a croupier, as it has been up to now?

[Castro] I believe there is a law in history to the effect that no social problem is solved until it becomes a crisis. Perhaps, the only way is for all this to become a crisis—so that the problems will then be solved—but that is not really what we want. We would not want that. We have had so many years of practice working with a development program. We know that if we can manage to organize the life of a country, the economy and the program of a country, without any violence, without crisis, and without bloodshed, this would be ideal.

In a certain way, we have been hoping for that, and we have been planning on that. I believe that in today's world, we need something like that, for example, in the political aspect. I do not know; perhaps we could develop a better awareness of these problems. However, that is not that easy. It is not that easy to blame the politicians. When politicians rise to power, they are confronted with situations that leave them very little room for any options or alternatives. That is the truth. I have observed that. I do not want to mention any country in particular. But that is the case. Sometimes, a government really does not have any other choice.

[Dobles] [Question indistinct]

[Castro] Sometimes they are forced by circumstances. Sometimes that situation can be changed only by a revolution. But, then there would be a discussion over what is a revolution, how can it be done, and if a peaceful revolution could occur. I would dare bet that a peaceful revolution can be achieved, at a certain time, under certain circumstances. I would dare bet on that. It could at least be tried. So far, it has not been tried.

The Chileans tried to achieve socialism in a peaceful manner. They were unable to do it and they were wiped out. In general, it has not been proven—but it is advisable—that the conditions and the circumstances be created. If you are not going to do it in 10 years, then do it in 20 years. Life has also shown us that it is not worth shedding blood just to gain 5 years, for example. If you are sure that you can do it in 10 years, and you are going to do it well, go ahead; or if you can do in 20 years, instead of 10, and you are going to do it well, go ahead and do it.

What has resulted thus far is the opposite, decades come and go. This is how the Cuban revolution has been ever since we were expelled from the OAS until now. As you can see, our population has doubled, in fact more than doubled, more problems have accumulated. Kennedy feared there would be a revolution due to this socially explosive situation and he created the Alliance for Progress. He offered $20 billion. However, the situation at that time was quite different from the situation now. You Venezuelans are aware of that. You know very well about the real income at that time and what people could buy and could not buy. However, that is a situation being faced by all Latin American countries.

Today there is no formula. Imperialism has no formula for Latin America. At least Kennedy created the Alliance For Progress. The formula imperialism has now is: Pay me back for the $400 billion, keep selling me products at low prices and I will sell items to you at higher prices. We see this everytime we purchase any equipment, any kind of equipment, a crane, a bulldozer, a loader used for construction works, a tractor, or a truck. Prices go up every year. If the equipment cost 100,000 this year, next year it will cost 105,000, and the following year it will cost 110,000, 117,000, and so on. This happens every year you buy equipment. However, the price of products you sell might go up or down a little. The rule is what you sell becomes cheaper every year.

Look at what has happened to the price of coffee, which is a traditional export product of Central American and Latin American countries. Meanwhile those people [in Costa Rica] shouted their heads off, like parrots, talking about democracy. It happens that coffee, from which many people earn their living, was at $1.40 a pound last year. Today, the price of coffee in the market is $0.74. That is, half of the price it was last year. This happens with most of our main export products. However, other countries buy medicines, chemical products, machines, industrial equipment, and you can be sure that prices will be higher than the prices in effect last year, or the year before. That is the law. That is the reality in Latin America.

[Perez] Although it is a....

[Castro interrupting] I do not want to talk here like an instigator. I am trying to respond to your questions as objectively as possible.

[Perez] This is unusual, but I would like you to sign an autograph for a Venezuelan friend of mine....

[Castro interrupting] What is his name?

[Perez] His name is Jesus, Jesus Arteaga.

[Castro] Jesus, [words indistinct] for Jesus.

[Perez] He is a friend of Cathy.

[Castro] [Words indistinct] have to go to a ceremony.

[Dobles] Fidel, I would like you to....

[Castro interrupting] Do not forget that.

[Dobles] No, no, we would like you to send a greeting to Venezuelans.

[Castro] I still clearly remember my visit to Venezuela.

[Dobles] We feel the same.

[Castro] I will never forget the attitude of the people, newsmen, youths, and the attitude of all people in Venezuela. I will never forget all that. It was a great lesson. I was able to see in Venezuela that it is worth working with faith in the future, and with honesty, because sooner or later the truth finds its way through. In the attitude and reaction of the Venezuelan people I was able to see something unbelievable to me. After so many years of propaganda, I did not know how Venezuelans would react. I assume the United States is very disappointed with the results. However, I noticed....(changes thought) I remember the two Venezuelas. The Venezuela of 1959 and the Venezuela of today. I noted people are better educated—very educated —and the youths are well informed and have great knowledge, excellence, and are active. The newsmen are intelligent and people have changed and progressed a lot in the past 30 years. I had an unforgettable impression which is something I will never forget. This has helped to increase my love for the Venezuelan people and for all Latin American people, but in particular for the Venezuelan people.

The Venezuelan people helped us when we were waging the war at the Sierra Maestra. They helped us, supported the revolution, and expressed their affection and hospitality in 1959 after the triumph of the revolution as they have done now. This is even more admirable [words indistinct] from a lively and active people as Venezuelans have always been. Therefore, since I am optimistic, I believe in the people. I believe the Venezuelan people must be like the Colombian people, and the Ecuadoran people whom I have met too, and like the Brazilian people. I believe people will now exert greater influence in the positions adopted.

[Dobles] People are the only ones who can change the leadership in power.

[Castro] People are the only ones who can change everything. Hope is something we must never lose.

[Dobles] Thank you Fidel.

[Castro] It has been a pleasure and an honor. I want to thank you for this opportunity, although this has been improvised at this Japanese Garden. The Japanese Garden will become famous after this.

[Dobles] At least in Venezuela, everyone will want to come and visit it.

[Castro] Thank you very much. As soon as I was told you were coming, and after you arrived, I began to look at your schedule and in mine trying to find some free time . Therefore, I said: Tell them to come tomorrow to the inauguration of the Japanese Garden.

[Dobles] We must thank the Japanese ambassador for this opportunity to interview Fidel. Thank you very much.

[Japanese ambassador] My pleasure.

[Dobles] Thank you very much, thank you Fidel, I wish you the best in the world.

Castro Tours Havana Construction Projects

FL0611140389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro toured some important construction projects in Havana Province on Red Sunday. Yesterday morning, he visited the Havana No 4 cold-storage plant which is being constructed by Brigade No 16 of the Blas Roca Contingent. At this site, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] spoke with construction group chief Juan Junco, who told Fidel that the building is 60 percent completed. One of the principle objectives of the cold-storage plant, Junco said, is to preserve agricultural products so that they may be distributed with greater quality and freshness to the population.

Fidel later visited the southern dike in Alquizar Municipality in Havana where he was briefed on the status of its construction. He observed the flow of the water at a certain point in the dike and he called for raising the banks because water that is being collected is escaping. Afterward, the president of the Councils of State and Ministers went to San Antonio de los Banos where he toured the International Highway construction site.

At one point, Fidel spoke with journalists on the work done by the Blas Roca Contingent and the problems that they will soon solve, especially with the southern dike, because of the need for water for Havana's agriculture industry and the cold-storage plant that is needed to preserve the agricultural products that the population consumes.

During his tour of Havana, the commander in chief was accompanied by Victorino Lemus, first PCC secretary in Havana Province, and other leaders.

Speaks to Journalists

FL0611143489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Nov 89

["Segments" of interview granted by President Fidel Castro to journalists during his tour of Havana Province on Red Sunday, 5 November—recorded]

[Text] [Journalist] What impression have you gotten from the short tour you made on Red Sunday?

[Castro] I have the same impression every time I tour these sites. I am impressed with the work, how they work. It is promising work and it can solve important problems in the future.

You now understand the importance of that cold-storage plant and the dike. The dike will help us resolve one of the greatest headaches we have in the west, that is the problem of water. We plan to continue from Batabano. That dike will provide 600 or 700 cubic meters of water. We are now bringing water in from Matanzas by way of the canal. We will bring water from Matanzas. These water projects are efficient and even though we lose some land because of the space the water will take up, it is very important.

You saw the people that are constructing the cold-storage plant. There are 125 people in that group which began construction 6 months ago.

[Journalist] They work day and night.

[Castro] They work day and night at an incredible pace. You can see their progress.

[Journalist] You said that within 3 months we will have to find them a new construction site.

[Castro] We will have to find them a new position in 3 months. [laughs] We will see if there are other cold-storage plants or other important things to be built and we take the opportunity to [words indistinct].

CTC Issues Statement on Red Sunday Activities

FL0611145089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] A preliminary statement issued last night by the Department of Volunteer Work of the Cuban Workers Federation, CTC, indicated that more than 2.091 million workers were mobilized throughout the country yesterday on Red Sunday as a tribute to the 72d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the 16th CTC Congress. The statement adds that everyone fulfilled the guidelines issued by the CTC on the organized, beneficial, and efficient participation in the activities.

The provinces reported that many of the collectives divided their workers into two groups. Some gave their

support during Red Sunday weekend on Saturday and Sunday, while others contributed volunteer work the previous Monday.

The efforts of the mobilized workers were directed toward agricultural tasks, repairs in sugar factories, construction projects, port activities and production and service tasks.

Actor, Wife Request Political Asylum in Spain

PA0611182289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0658 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Madrid, 2 Nov (EFE)—Cuban actor Ramon Veloz Fernandez, who is performing in a play in Madrid, and his wife, Miriam Cabrera, requested political asylum at a police station in the Spanish capital on 2 November.

The actor's wife, who arrived in Madrid from Budapest, is chief of the Foreign Communications Department of the Ministry of Communications of Cuba, and should have returned to Havana from Hungary.

The 42-year-old actor is in Madrid performing in the play "Malinche Passion," which, according to the program, is about the artist's honesty under socialism.

Ramon Veloz Fernandez stated that when he left Cuba, he had plans to request political asylum in Spain because he feels the need to "express my fundamental rights and political ideas."

Asked about how he thought he could overcome going from popularity in Cuba to anonymity in Spain , Veloz said, "Every risk requires sacrifice."

Foreign Trade Minister Inaugurates Havana Fair

FL0711013189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0002 GMT 7 Nov 89

[From "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Cuba has trade relations with over 100 countries which report a mutual profit of approximately 14,000 million pesos. This was stated by Ricardo Cabrisas, minister of foreign trade, as he inaugurated the Seventh International Fair of Havana that is being held in Expocuba.

Addressing representatives from approximately 600 firms from 30 countries, Cabrisas said that during these past few years the island has increased its relations with Latin America. He gave Brazil as an example and pointed out Cuba's consolidation of ties with Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia. In this sense, he said, [Cuba's] observer status in the Latin American Integration Association and the Andean (?Pact) contributes greatly, as well as its presence in the Latin American Economic System.

We hope that the fair, he added, will contribute to Latin American integration and the attainment of the new international economic order, which is more just and equal.

Pedro Miret, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, cut the ribbon symbolizing the opening of the fair which will end next Sunday.

Antigua and Barbuda

Radio Antilles Feasibility Study Completed

FL0611152789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2159 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Nov 5, CANA— A study on the feasibility of the Montserrat-based, West-German owned Radio Antilles, will be presented to leaders of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) later this month, a government official has said.

The official said the report had been undertaken by Ron Sanders, a former broadcaster and ex-high commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda.

"The study has just been completed, which I think will be presented to the authority (OECS Summit) in St.Lucia. I know Mr. Ronald Sanders was engaged by the OECS to carry out the study," the official told CANA.

The OECS has been making an effort to take over the radio station, ever since the West German authorities announced they were no longer providing financial assistance to the station which has been broadcasting to the region from Montserrat for 26 years.

Last month, Montserrat's Chief Minister John Osborne was quoted by an official government publication as saying that recent talks with the West German authorities had resulted in a favourable agreement being reached for the OECS to take over Radio Antilles.

Bermuda

Report of 131 AIDS Cases in Nation, 98 Deaths

FL0611171089 Bridgetown CANA in English 0028 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Nov 5 CANA—A total of 131 cases of AIDS has now been reported in Bermuda, with a further three new cases being recorded in September, health officials said Saturday. Two more victims died in September, bringing the total number of deaths here to 98. So far this year 31 cases have been reported, already exceeding the highest annual figure of 28 recorded last year.

Of the newest reported patients [word indistinct] one contracted the disease through intravenous drug use, one

through homosexual activity, and one through heterosexual contact. One is a woman, two are men and all are black. Two fall in the 30 to 39-year age bracket and the other in the 40 to 49-year age bracket.

Some 107 men and 24 women have contracted AIDS, officials said. Of the total number of patients, 75 (22.9 per cent) through homosexual contact and 18 (13.6 per cent) through heterosexual contact. [sentence as received] The remaining eight (6.1 per cent), contracted the disease through other methods including contaminated blood transfusions.

Dominica

Prime Minister 'Hints' at 1990 Elections

FL0611144789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2100 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Nov 5, CANA— Dominicans have been told to prepare themselves for a general election in 1990.

Prime Minister Eugenia Charles in a radio broadcast marking the 11th anniversary of independence over the weekend hinted at the polls which must be held next year.

"Fellow Dominicans, this is the last Independent Day message from me during the second term of office of the Dominica Freedom Party," the 70-year-old Charles said, outlining the achievements of her administration. [passage indistinct]

The ruling Dominica Freedom Party was re-elected to office on July 1, 1985, winning 15 of the 21 seats at stake.

The electoral office here has been mounting a radio campaign urging voters to ensure that they are registered.

Dominican Republic

Haitians Forced To Work in 'Slavery' Conditions

FL0611204489 Bridgetown CANA in English 1850 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 6, CANA—Haitians are being forced to work on sugar cane estates in the neighbouring Dominican Republic under near slavery conditions for extremely low wages, three human rights groups have reported. Delegations from Americas Watch, the National Coalition for Haitian Refugees and Caribbean Rights, after missions to the Dominican Republic and Haiti, concluded that Haitian workers are compelled to labour under appalling conditions for abysmal pay cutting cane on state-run sugar plantations during the harvest season from November to May each year.

"Although slavery in the Dominican Republic was formally abolished over a century ago, Haitians in that country continue to be delivered at gunpoint to work on government plantations," charges a report titled "Haitian Sugar-Cane Cutters in the Dominican Republic". The report says the government's State Sugar Council (CEA) operates most Dominican sugar plantations, and, unable to attract voluntary labour because of poor working conditions, lures workers from Haiti or rounds-up resident Haitians at gunpoint inside the Dominican Republic and forces them to cut cane on CEA plantations. The groups charge that the Dominican military provides much of the muscle behind this coercion and said further, uniformed, armed men patrol the sugar cane fields and the bateys—where the Haitians live—to prevent escape.

The plight of Haitian sugar-cane workers in the Dominican Republic has received little attention from Dominican trading partners. "The United States, which continues to allocate its largest sugar quota to the Dominican Republic (despite substantial reductions in the quota in the mid-1980's) and is the Dominican Republic's largest trading partner, has closed its eyes to the abuses," charges a joint statement from the three right groups.

They said the State Department's annual human rights report systematically understated the coercive practices against sugar-cane workers. "The human rights officer at the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo told one investigative team for this report that he had never been to a batey and had never read the leading work on abuses there," said the statement.

The 68-page report concludes with a set of recommendations to improve the situation of Haitian workers and ensure that their labour is voluntary:

—Round-ups and other coercive practices must end, and any security personnel engaged in such activity must be prosecuted;
—Workers should be hired on a contract, with a clear explanation in comprehensible language of working conditions and salary provisions;
—The CEA must be responsible for the workers' transportation to the Dominican Republic at the beginning of the harvest, and their return to Haiti at the end;
—Recruitment of Haitian [passage indistinct].

Grenada

Blaize's Illness Causing 'Chaotic Situation'

FL0611162389 Bridgetown CANA in English 2052 GMT 4 Nov 89

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 4, CANA— Ailing Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, who has been restricted to bed for the past week, will miss tomorrow's launching of his two month old party, well-placed sources said.

A top government official told CANA that preparations for the official take-off of the National Party (TNP) are too advanced to be cancelled because of the 71 year old leader's ill-health.

He said that there is a strong possibility that a message from Blaize would be read at the launching on Grenada's north-eastern seacoast of Seamoon.

Blaize suffers from a prostate gland disorder and receives radiation treatment in the United States.

The official said Blaize appears too weak to sign documents.

The only official announcement on Blaize's health was made last night by Deputy Prime Minister Ben Jones in a radio and television broadcast to the nation.

Jones said that for the past five days Blaize has been suffering from "a very sore throat and a hoarse voice...".

Blaize has cancelled virtually all appointments at his official Mt Royal residence which he has been using in the past year as the office of the prime minister.

He reportedly granted an audience to a group of American investors while lying in his bed.

Blaize's illness has apparently caused some indesiveness among cabinet ministers.

A planned emergency sitting of the remaining six government ministers called Friday to discuss the situation had to be cancelled at the last minute with only two members showing up.

Public Utilities Minister Senator Ben Andrew and Jones arrived for the meeting while George Mc Guire (education), Felix Alexander (health), and Ministers of State Alleyne Walker and Pauline Andrews failed to attend, sources here said.

Party officials have said that the highpoint of Sunday's TNP launching is expected to be the announcement of a date early next month for the party's first convention.

The officials could not give details on the programme being planned for Sunday because of the "chaotic situation now resulting" because of Blaize's illness.

State-owned "Radio Grenada" has been carrying frequent broadcasts concerning "free transportation" for people wanting to attend the TNP launching billed as the start of the political season.

General elections are constitutionally due by the end of March.

'Ailing' Blaize at TNP Event

FL0611212389 Bridgetown CANA in English 1834 GMT 6 Nov 89

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 6, CANA—Much of the promised fanfare was missing from the launching on Sunday of The National Party (TNP) of Grenada's ailing Prime Minister Herbert Blaize. The event, which attracted about 800 people, turned out to rather lacklustre.

No important announcements were made as promised by party officials and the 71-year old Blaize was too weak to address the audience although he made an appearance. Officials said he had a "sore throat" which left his voice "rather hoarse". Blaize, who looked pale, observed the near five-hour event from his wheelchair on a platform decorated with a banner reading "Blaze the trail with TNP".

The prime minister, who heads a minority government, has suspended Parliament to enable him to establish the new party and avoid a no-confidence vote which would almost certainly bring his downfall. Blaize broke away from the New National Party (NNP), which he led to a massive election victory in 1984, because of disagreements with Dr Keith Mitchell, who ousted him from the NNP leadership.

The major address at the launching was delivered by Blaize's deputy and long time aide Ben Jones, the foreign and agriculture minister. Jones himself appeared to be unhappy with the turn-out and called for the gathering to be twice as big whenever another meeting was held.

His speech was full of praise for Blaize whom he described as a "super man." He defended Blaize in the face of widespread criticism that he should bow out of politics on account of his failing health. "Running a government is not like running a 100 metres. Running a government is about using your brains, and all of those people who say they have brains, I tell you that none of them could stand in the line of this ... man you see on the chair because he would tie them up all," Jones said. "The game is about the capacity to think, to work out problems, to deal with strategies and to apply a mental capacity to it and that is where Herbert Blaize excels," he added.

Jones said that he would never ever undercut Blaize because once he pledges loyalty to anyone "that person can count on it right down the line. I would stay in politics with Herbert Blaize so long as he is there to lead me," he said. "The only real leader in our country is this broko man, Herbert Augustus Blaize", he said, in a reference to Blaize's physical condition.

The prime minister suffers from arthritis and a prostate gland disorder.

Jones called on the crowd to join the TNP "workforce", saying there was going to be a hard electoral fight ahead. Jones also used the occasion to criticise the past politics of conservative former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy and that of the left-wingers whose 1979-83 rule ended with the execution of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. "We have to ensure that those people on the right do not

come back into government because if they do is revolution again," he said. [sentence as received] "We have to ensure that those on the left ain't come back in government again because if they do, a lot of us go die," he added. [sentence as received]

Gairy's government was toppled in a 1979 coup d'etat by Bishop's Marxist-oriented New Jewel Movement (NJM). When Bishop was executed four years later, U.S. troops invaded the island and elections held in 1984 to re-establish constitutional rule resulted in Blaize taking office at the head of the NNP.

NNP Deputy Leader Williams To Step Down

FL0611162489 Bridgetown CANA in English 1608 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 5, CANA—Deputy leader of the New National Party (NNP) and former Grenada Attorney General Danny Williams will not contest the next general election, party sources said on Sunday. They told CANA that Williams, who has often said he wants to return to private practice as a lawyer, would step down in favour of insurance executive Joslin Whiteman, his brother-in-law. Williams resigned from the government in August after Prime Minister Herbert Blaize said he would break from the NNP and form his own party.

Meanwhile, NNP has apparently wooed a top government officer to contest the rural St Andrew's south-west seat held by External Affairs Minister Ben Jones. The new recruit, local government commissioner Richard Lewis, handed in his resignation a few days ago to contest the seat.

An election must be called by the first quarter of 1990.

Haiti

Avril Attends Carrefour Mass, Reaffirms Resolve

FL0611173289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] On the occasion of the festival of Saint Charles, Carrefour Commune's patron saint, several priests celebrated a mass of thanksgiving at Saint Charles Church in Carrefour Commune on Saturday 4 November. This mass was enhanced by the presence of the president of the military government, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, and other high-ranking Army officers.

At the invitation of parish officials, the government officials gathered at the presbytery after the mass. While they were there, Carrefour Magistrate Jean Coicou Augustin thanked the president of the military government for attending this mass, saying that the very fact that Gen Avril came to Carrefour to attend the mass had enhanced the atmosphere. The magistrate also said he has seen with his own eyes the good things the military government, headed by Gen Avril, has done for Haiti.

Gen Avril said we must wage a struggle against insecurity and the high cost of living in Haiti. These things are threatening to destroy Haiti, Avril said. He added that the government is going to work very enthusiastically to set the country on the right track. We will have you listen to Gen Prosper Avril.

[Begin Avril recording in progress, in French] ...(?have said to me) that this is the first time Gen Avril has visited Carrefour Commune [laughter] under Father St Hubert. I would like to remind the parishioners of Carrefour that I too have come here as a son of Carrefour. I resided in Carrefour Commune from 1965 to 1970, at Cote Plage, World [word indistinct] Road, and three of my children were baptized at Saint Charles Church. Thus I am in my neighborhood here, with Father St Hubert as parish priest. I met him at Saint Martial, although perhaps he has forgotten me (?and) [words indistinct], who is from our place. I feel truly at home here.

The second thing is that, regarding the problems the nation is confronting, I would also like to say to the parishioners of Carrefour, who are very concerned about the nation's problems, that I have this morning re-encountered here, partners, partners in this struggle that we wish to wage to save our country—the Haitian nation, the Haitian people—from all these calamities that seem to be befalling us all. I am refering to this insecurity that people are talking about a lot these days and about the extreme poverty that was mentioned a while ago, the high cost of living and all that. Thus, I am going to work with even greater enthusiasm, for I know that I am not alone in the battle. [end recording]

That was the president of the military government, Lt Gen Prosper Avril, speaking from Carrefour on Saturday 4 November, on the occasion of the festival of Saint Charles, patron saint of Carrefour Commune.

Arrest of Three Leaders Precipitates Strikes

Assemblage Calls Protest Strike

FL0611164789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Excerpts] It has been 6 days since the government arrested, jailed, and mistreated Auguste Mesyeux, Evans Paul, and Etienne Marineau, accusing them of plotting against national security. The statements made by the police and the Ministry of Information, as well as the images over the government television station showing the manhandling of these citizens, continues to give rise to a wave of protest and general indignation both in Haiti and abroad.

The latest report on Saturday, highlighted the poor physical condition of these citizens. [passage omitted]

The National Assemblage has called for a 48-hour general strike for tomorrow 7 November, and Wednesday 8 November, to demand the release of Paul, Marineau, and Mesyeux.

The call of the National Assemblage for a strike is based on several considerations. The Assemblage says, for example, that Major Clerjeune declared that the police found weapons at the three men's homes, and then later said the police found the weapons in their car. Maj Clerjeune declared that Frantz Patrick Beauchard was in a small white car but managed to escape. Clerjeune asked the population to help the police find this dangerous man. However, the major forgot to give the make and license plate number of the vehicle. He also forgot to tell people that Beauchard does not know how to drive. [passage omitted]

The major forgot to say what day Konpe Plim [Evans Paul] met with this palace sergeant [as heard] for the first time, as well as what this sergeant's name is. The Haitian people would like to meet him and hear what he has to say.

Major Clerjeune also said the arrested men were holding a final meeting at the home of an important political figure. He then said these three men were waiting for that political figure. However, the major forgot to tell the Haitian people this important political figure's name, what street he lives on, and the number of the house. Why didn't the major tell the Haitian people that the police are seeking this political figure, so they can arrest him too, like Beauchard, Sonthonax, and all the other people whose names the police gave?

In the same press release, the Assemblage says that it is taking this opportunity to inform the Haitian people that the manhandling of these three patriots is not going to make the Assemblage back off. It is the general who must halt, so that the Assemblage can advance, together with the Haitian people, so that democracy can be established in Haiti. [passage omitted]

This call for a strike is supported by diverse organizations. A press release from the Confederation for Democratic Unity, KID, says KID supports unreservedly this call for a 48-hour general strike. [passage omitted]

There is also a protest note from the Movement for the Organization of the Country, MOP, which says that upon hearing both sides of the story, MOP sees that both sides are making very serious accusations. Therefore, says MOP, the police authorities must be able to show proof of what they are accusing these men of doing. [passage omitted] In view of all these considerations, the MOP that has its headquarters in the Bel-Air section says it condemns all arbitrary repressive acts and all acts of violence, regardless of who commits them. [passage omitted]

We have received many other notes of protest, from, for example: Assembly of Progressive National Democrats, Union of Democratic Patriots, National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements, National Alliance of People's Organizations, Haitian Lawyers Committee, and Democratic Combatants League. The Ecumenical Center for Human Rights also condemns the acts of repression. [passage omitted]

There has also been reaction from the Federation of Agricultural Workers of Saint-Michel de l'Attalaye and protests from the National Democratic Progressive Party of Haiti. Protests have also come from the Les Cayes area and other provinces.

Arrested Men on Hunger Strike

FL0611205689 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Excerpts] At the beginning of this new week, the local news is still dominated by the arrest of three political and union leaders: Auguste Mesyeux, Evans Paul, and Etienne Marineau. The CATH, or Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers—one of whose officials is Mesyeux—has called for a 48-hour strike as of 7 November, to demand the release of the three men and protest the torture they have suffered at the hands of the military authorities. This strike is supported by, among others, the National Assemblage of Political and Union Organizations, which includes several political parties, among them the Unified Party of Haitian Communists and the coalition made up of the Mobilization for National Development, the Movement for the Organization of the Country and the National Agricultural and Industrial Party.

The three arrested men went on a hunger strike this morning, demanding to be taken to court.

[Reporter Nancy Roc] [Passage omitted] In view of the authorities' total indifference toward them, Evans Paul, Jean Auguste Mesyeux and Etienne Marineau began a hunger strike today, Monday 6 November. They are demanding to be taken before a judge. Here is the CATH's information secretary [Joseph Manusi Pierre] at our microphone.

[Begin Pierre recording] [Passage omitted] For these reasons, the comrades have gone on a hunger strike, refusing all food and even medication. [passage omitted] They have also gone on strike in solidarity with the strike that will be going on outside. [end recording]

[Roc] [Passage omitted] CATH is asking all sectors of the nation to participate in this strike and for the Episcopal Conference of Haiti [CEH] to take a stand on the imprisonment of these three men.

[Begin Pierre recording] I ask the Haitian people in general to remain firmly mobilized and to counter all the macoute maneuvers that might take place during these two strike days because there is a rumor circulating in Port-au-Prince that a massacre has been prepared for Port-au-Prince. Thus, the population must take measures to provide security for themselves.

We ask the street vendors not to go out on the streets. We ask them to stay home so that the macoutes will not kill them.

We also ask the CEH to shoulder its responsibility. We ask embassies of countries that are friends of Haiti to

open their eyes to what is happening in Haiti right now. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Workers To Mobilize Against Injustices

FL0611210589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The Confederation of Haitian Workers, CTH, and the Industrial and Assembly Industry Workers Federation (FENATIS), have decided to mobilize their members into a campaign against injustices committed against factory workers.

In order to state their position on the situation of the working class in the assembly industry, as well as to discuss the conference held in Trinidad and Tobago on the working class in the Caribbean and Latin America, the CTH and the FENATIS held a news conference at CTH headquarters on the morning of Wednesday 1 November. Diverse workers union representatives and FENATIS representatives explained the problems the workers encounter, with employers who can't stand unions and the Social Affairs Ministry, which sides with the employers to (?stifle) the working class.

According to FENATIS, in 1986-87, more than 20,000 workers were fired for union activities. Employers refused to engage in dialogue with them and the courts refused to give them justice. The workers think that a systematic attempt to destabilize the unions lies at the root of this situation (?and that its) objective is to compromise the democratic process. FENATIS asks: Who is there to give the workers justice in a country where justice is based on the power of the employers' money? They ask the authorities if it is the workers who should provide justice for themselves? [passage omitted]

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] In order to attain everything we just mentioned, we chose dialogue, which means sitting down at the negotiating table, where certain employers (?managed) to understand us, and we them. [passage omitted] However, other employers create conflicts to eliminate the union, on the pretext that the union is there to destroy the plant. [passage omitted]

We of FENATIS have more than 9,000 workers who have been fired. [passage omitted]

The sanctions against the employers are never respected. [passage omitted]

Finally, we note that there is systematic destablization of the union movement, the objective of which is:

1. to compromise the democratic process;

2. to create the socioeconomic conditions that prevent the worker from participating in the democratic process;

3. to facilitate the task of the traditional politicians, not just so they can buy the working class but especially so they can buy their political consciences. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Furthermore, FENATIS feels the tripartite committee formed by the Ministry of Social Affairs is incapable of making its decisions respected. Thus, CTH Secretary General Jean Claude Lebrun declared that the CTH and the workers are going to carry out a series of actions—such as meetings with the authorities and other union federations; dialogue; protests; even strikes, if need be—so that workers can obtain justice.

[Begin Lebrun recording] [Passage omitted] One of the biggest problems we have is that there is no class consciousness within the movement. [passage omitted]

Thus, we are going to restate our problems and discuss them with all the other union federations, with other serious institutions, and with everyone else. Then we are going to take a number of other actions, which will include, obviously, strikes—sectorial, national, and by federation—demonstrations, and all those those things which (?will not at all leave out) a sharing that is simultaneously (?by parties, partisan) and also political, so as to get the federations out of the crisis they are traversing. And [words indistinct] stand behind the door, so that they will sit down and talk to us because the country cannot have any democracy unless there is organization within the country. [end recording]

In view of all this, Lebrun thinks the only solution lies in putting an end to this provisional government business that seems never-ending in Haiti and to which an end must now be put. [passage omitted]

CTH thinks that in order for the aid which Lome is going to provide to Haiti not to go into individual's pockets to purchase fancy cars, there must be a representative of the working class in the organization in Lome, and that is why CTH participated in the meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago.

[Begin Lebrun recording] [Passage omitted] A sole political leader from a single country cannot manage the relations. We think it is the entire Caribbean that must (?unite) on a political level, so we can do as Europe is doing. [end recording]

Panpra Document Proposes 'National Pact'

FL0611180789 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Just shortly before the events [the arrest of Jean-Auguste Mesyeux, Evans Paul, and Etienne Marineau for allegedly plotting to assassinate President Avril and others], Serges Gilles of the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [Panpra] published a document in which he noted that human rights violations continue.

In his document, Serges Gilles said section chiefs are continuing their policy of repressing the peasants, with the consent of the military authorities. He also said the climate of insecurity persists and the social crisis is becoming worse.

In view of this situation, Serges Gilles proposes a national dialogue among all the different sectors, including the Haitian Armed Forces.

In a detailed analysis of the current situation, Panpra's coordinator, Gilles, also speaks of a malaise created within the political parties by the publication of the draft electoral calendar.

Regarding the climate of insecurity, Serges Gilles terms ambiguous the initiatives taken by the government, which has launched into a round of unimplemented decrees, legal dispositions, and administrative measures.

How to get out of the crisis? Panpra rejects all ideas of destablizing the government, and suggests that everyone come up with a national pact, which Gilles says can be made only through a national dialogue.

According to Gilles, such a national pact should be the end result of a national dialogue and debate in which the military government, the political organizations, and the principal institutions that represent the nation's vital and moral forces would participate.

Last, Gilles feels this national dialogue should lead to solving the great national problems of the moment. These problems are elections, insecurity, the social crisis, respect for human rights, and the setting in place of a democratic regime.

Beauchard Sends Recorded Statement to Press

FL0611204789 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Attorney [Joseph] Maxi, the president of the Haitian Human Rights League, has gone underground. He never returned home Friday, some 3 days after the military intervened at his residence in the Carrefour section of Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners that Mr Maxi's residence was searched on 1 November by soldiers from the Presidential Guard who were looking for former Sergeant Patrick Beauchard. The military authorities consider Beauchard to be the head of an organization that wanted to assassinate General Avril and all the Army's officers, as well as certain prominent civilians, and then set up a popular militia.

Patrick Beauchard, who is underground, has sent the press a recorded statement proclaiming his innocence.

[Begin Beauchard recording in progress, in Creole] They say they are looking for me. Well, I don't have a house. They said I was in a four door Toyota car. Why, I don't even have a donkey to ride. Know what I mean?

The general's eyes are like the big eyes of a fish that is being (?fried) in hot oil. He put me out of the Presidential Guard on 16 October 1988. He dumped us all into unemployment. We are all out here, hungry. I don't know why they are now mentioning my name. Why are they mentioning my name? They said we offered a soldier $7,000, in connection with a plot. Do you think if I had $7,000 I would go and give it to someone from the palace? And then they came up with this business of the unassembled Galil. Sure! (?Try it!) Put a Galil in a bag to go and operate on the outside. They came (?up) with the entire plot. They came with our unassembled Galil plus our M-14's (?plus) our (?UZI's), in order to intimidate people. However, Criminal Investigations, you are too too stupid! It's time you stopped committing these vile barbarous acts in people's faces!

As for you, General, there is only one thing I have say to you. You are always yelling: Coup d'etat, coup d'etat!

One of these days you are really going to be given one, you know? You really are going to be given a coup d'etat, you hear? And when you get it, you are going to get it easily. It is not I who is going to give you a coup d'etat; but when they give it to you, they will give it to you easily.

I am launching an appeal to the nine geographical departments of Haiti: Haitian people, understand where you are. Mobilize for the 29th of November. This time, I do believe it will be the government's (?final) day.

Thank you. Good luck. Pray for me, because I am continuing, firmly. [end recording]

That was the voice of former Sergeant Patrick Beauchard, who is being sought by the police. That was a pre-recorded statement he sent the press.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson on Rising Popularity of Ruling Party

FL0611180389 Bridgetown CANA in English 1406 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Nov 6, CANA—Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson is confident about the 1991 general election chances of his National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) [words indistinct], now emerging from a period of intense internal strife and general unpopularity. "I have no apprehensions whatsoever about what will happen whether in 1991 or 1992," Robinson told NAR supporters in the northeastern area of Sangre Grande Saturday.

Robinson said his NAR, which has risen in the latest popularity polls, was even able to move around in parts of the country where "two years ago, it was difficult even to put in an appearance without a show of hostility. Recent indiciations of the improvement in the standing of the party are nothing new to us. We have been sensing this for some time and, in [word indistinct], we knew

that having had to take the (tough economic) measures we had to take, that this would have affected our standing in the country," Robinson said.

Robinson said his three-year administration had continued to work in a "responsible" manner knowing it would be vindicated. "Once you do your duty, once you do what you are required to do, once you exercise responsibility, diligence among the people, love for the people, understanding of their problems, and once we, together, adopt the appropriate policies which we are doing in order to address the problems of the population, I have absolutely no doubt that the population will keep the NAR as the government of Trinidad and Tobago for a succeeding term," Robinson said.

Robinson acknowledged that, internally, the former four-party grouping had had problems and added that, "at one time, we were seriously threatened with disintegration of the party and the government. I am sure that the [words indistinct] over the harder we work the better it will be," the prime minister told supporters.

The Sangre Grande meeting was one in a series of build-up sessions for the NAR's November 26 annual convention.

Costa Rica

Arias, FMLN Leaders Discuss Caracas Meeting

PA0711012989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0034 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] San Jose, 6 Nov (DPA)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has met with Salvador Samayoa and Mercedes Letona, leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), in the presidential house to discuss the stalemate in the dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN.

The guerrilla leaders told the Costa Rican president that they stand by their decision not to attend the meeting scheduled to be held in Caracas in 2 weeks because of "President Cristiani's intransigent attitude."

Arias asked Samayoa and Letona to reconsider their position and to attend the dialogue in Caracas. It was reported to the press that the two leaders accepted President Arias' offer, whereby he would speak with President Cristiani to see if it is possible to change the conditions of the dialogue in Caracas. The Caracas meeting had been approved by both sides at the San Jose meeting more than 2 weeks ago. At the end of the meeting, Arias said he was pleased with the exchange of viewpoints and added that he will make every effort to see if the Caracas meeting can be held.

Ambassador To Protest Nicaraguan 'Spying'

PA0711041889 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 1 Nov 89 p 4-A

[Report by staff writer Olga Marta Cokyeen]

[Text] Dr Farid Ayales Esna, Costa Rican ambassador in Managua, will present a letter of protest to the Nicaraguan Government because of the "spying" to which he has been subjected.

According to Costa Rican Foreign Ministry instructions, this protest should be presented by the ambassador at the time he deems most appropriate. He could make this protest today.

The Sandinist government has accused Ayales of improper conduct and meddling in the country's domestic politics by linking him to opposition parties.

The Sandinist government has said that it became aware of this when it infiltrated the National Opposition Union. On the other hand, Ayales recently reported to LA NACION that he was being spied on directly.

"We repudiate espionage. The government representative should be guaranteed freedom of movement to investigate and analyze the country's policies, to interpret them, and inform his government," Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said.

In his letter, Dr Ayales requests that the case be investigated and that this practice, which affects the national delegation, be stopped.

Despite describing the situation as a "minor incident," Foreign Minister Madrigal said that if Dr Ayales' complaint is ignored, a "more direct protest" will be made. Madrigal attributes the Nicaraguan attitude to a bad interpretation of the task of the Costa Rican representative in that country. "We have always tried to maintain good relations and to work to see that international pacts are adhered to," he said.

Madrigal added that all these incidents would be insignificant if the Nicarguan Government declared a general amnesty and maintained the cease-fire—the suspension of which was announced by President Daniel Ortega—because these actions would reduce tensions in the country.

El Salvador

FENASTRAS Attack Claimed by Anonymous Letter

PA0611194989 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Radio Cadena YSKL does not usually repeat reports sent anonymously or by persons who do not identify themselves. However, on this occasion we have been asked to read part of an anonymous letter. We are going to do it because of the importance of the case. It has to do with the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] incident. The letter was hand written and contains spelling errors.

According to the writer, he and his sister are responsible for the attack on the FENASTRAS headquarters. It was in revenge for something done by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. The letter adds that FMLN Commander Joaquin Villalobos was responsible for the deaths of the Palacios Villatoro family on 19 October 1984 in Hondable Canton, Corinto, Morazan Department. The anonymous writer, who does not identify himself, but who is apparently a member of the Palacios Villatoro family, adds that on 19 October the FMLN killed his parents and three brothers and that he was wounded in the leg, but was able to escape. The letter adds that a year ago, he and his sister came to El Salvador and presented charges before the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission. However, no attention was paid to them. The annonymous writer continues to say that it was then they swore to avenge themselves and they joined FENASTRAS. Two months ago, while they were with the UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] shock troops, they acquired 3 pounds of TNT, 4 meters of slow-burning fuse, and 6 fuse caps.

The letter adds: On 31 October, I placed a pound of TNT and 7 feet of slow-burning fuse in a small container. I put some garbage on top of it and left it on a chair on the

second floor of the FENASTRAS building. I lit the fuse with a cigar and left the building. When I reached San Jose Park, the bomb exploded.

In conclusion, the anonymous writer who sent the letter to this radio station said that he will continue within the organization to complete his vengeance.

We wish to clarify that the aforementioned is written in an anonymous letter. This does not mean that we believe it, but because of the importance of the case, we have read it. According to the letter, the writer set off the bomb to avenge the deaths of his parents on 19 October 1984 in Hondable Canton, Corinto, Morazan Department.

FMLN Denounces Letter

PA0711020289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0027 GMT 7 Nov 89

["Press Bulletin" issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front on 6 November—place not given]

[Text] An anonymous communique was disseminated on 5 November by the local media. In this communique, an individual claims he carried out the terrorist attack against the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] headquarters in which 10 labor leaders were killed. He says the attack was a matter of personal revenge against the FMLN.

The anonymous communique is drafted in the style of the press reports issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, and it uses the same language and arguments of the colonels of La Tandona [1966 graduating class of the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military School]. Therefore, this confirms that the Armed Forces High Command and General Staff are the authors of the terrorirst attack against FENASTRAS.

As of this moment, we hold the Armed Forces High Command and General Staff responsible for what may happen to other leaders of the people's movement, as the anonymous communique specifically threatens UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] leader Humberto Centeno.

We consider the anonymous communique to be a clumsy lie and psychological warfare. It is also part of the high command's and government's plan to continue attacking the people's movement.

We call on the international community to remain alert to the events in our country, and we urge the people's movement to increase self-defense activity and to intensify the struggle against the fascist regime.

FMLN 28 Oct-5 Nov Guerrilla Actions Assessed

PA061'161889

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 31 October, reports that Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas attacked Military Detachment No 1 positions on the outskirts of Chalatenango at 0600 on 30 October. The troops under attack urgently requested air support at 0800; a UH-1H helicopter and a push-pull aircraft were sent to the combat zone. However, guerrillas hit the push-pull aircraft with antiaircraft weapons, then immediately left the area. At 1000, the clashes spread to Chiapas, (Gramales), and Cerro La Cruz. Demoralized Army troops directed mortar fire to the areas of (La Sierpe), San Antonio Los Ranchos, and (Juarquila). Meanwhile, two rocket launching helicopters attacked the Canas and Aguachapio area. The clashes continued until 1300 and 5 casualties were reported inflicted upon the Army.

Later in the newscast it was announced that the Santa Ana-based Feliciano Ama Front reported FMLN troops to have ambushed a 2d Infantry Brigade unit at 1300 on 28 October. The rebels ambushed a military truck convoy along the road between Santa Ana and Metapan. The guerrillas claimed to have inflicted 20 casualties and destroyed a military truck in this action.

It was reported that an FMLN unit operating in Santa Ana claimed attacking a 2d Infantry Brigade Company in (Taulapan), Metapan Municipality on 29 October, inflicting two casualties on the enemy.

On 2 November, Radio Venceremos reports that FMLN troops clashed with the Atonal Battalion at Canton Delicias in San Agustin Municipality on 1 November and inflicted 10 casualties—3 dead and 7 wounded. The clashes began at 1000 and ended at 1345. The Atonal soldiers had air and artillery support.

Also 30 FMLN rebels were reported to have clashed with Atonal Battalion troops near the town of (Galincagua) on 30 October. During this clash, FMLN rebels were said to have inflicted three casualties on the Army—2 dead and 1 wounded.

On 3 November Radio Venceremos reports that the Anastasio Aquino rebel front claimed that at 0905 on 2 November, its men ambushed a military truck carrying Atonal Battalion soldiers. The truck was traveling on a coastal highway near a place called (La Tiendita) in Tecoluca, San Vicente Department. The rebels caused approximately 12 casualties.

A later report told of the northeastern Francisco Sanchez Front claiming that an Arce Battalion officer was wounded during a rebel attack. The attack occurred near Jocoaitique at 0800 on 2 November.

Also Feliciano Ama Front guerrillas inflicted six casualties on 2d Infantry Brigade and Treasury Police troops in southern Santa Ana Department at 0600 on 2 November. The casualties occurred during a rebel attack on Army and police positions near the Metapan gasoline station.

Later it was reported that comrades at the southeastern Francisco Sanchez Front told of a rebel unit taking part

in a 20-minute attack against a Juacuaran Battalion position at Cerro El Faro, Jucuaran, inflicting two casualties on the 6th Infantry Brigade, but no date was given for the action.

The same station on 4 November, reports that FMLN rebels inflicted 15 casualties on Atlacatl Battalion troops during their 2-week stay in the San Salvador volcano area. The report noted that at 0800 on 3 November, the rebels placed mines in Finca San Francisco in (Mejapa) Jurisdiction where an Atcatl Battalion's company was to pass. This resulted in four casualties, bringing the casualty total the FMLN claims in the area to 15.

Also, a report from Chalatenango Department notes that at 1045 on 3 November, a rebel unit ambushed soldiers of the 4th Infantry Brigade along the road to Tejutla, inflicting 5 casualties.

Rebels operating in Chalatenango Deparment were also said to claim attacking enemy positions between Rio Grande de Alvarado and Carrizal in Tejutla Jurisdiction on 3 November, inflicting one casualty.

On 5 November, Radio Venceremos reports that guerrillas have carried out 2 ambushes along the Panamerican Highway, inflicting 26 Army casualties. The report indicated that at 0600 on 4 November, the rebels placed a bomb on a light tank near (Flores de Tepeyac), Apastepeque. It is estimated that the action resulted in 9 casualties; the light tank was completely destroyed. The second ambush occurred at 0815 on 4 November. The rebels ambushed a 10-vehicle military convoy and left at least 17 casualties. Some time after the rebel action, the Army directed mortar fire to the area and the Air Force leveled machinegun fire upon this populated zone. Traffic on the Panamerican Highway was paralyzed while the armed forces evacuated the many casualties from the area in helicopters.

A later report told of urban commandos attacking a treasury police unit at 5th Avenue and 5th Poniente Street in San Salvador, resulting in 2 casualties to the treasury police.

Also, rebel units were said to attack Military Detachment No 1 commandos on the outskirts of (Totonique), Chalatenango Department during the afternoon of 3 November, inflicting two casualties.

In another item, the Central Anastacio Aquino Front was reported to claim taking part in actions against the Belloso Battalion. FMLN rebels clashed with soldiers in Canton Coyolito in Tecoluca jurisdiction, San Vicente Department at 0900 on 3 November, and inflicted three casualties. That same day, the same unit was attacked in Finca Sajelio and the guerrillas claimed to have inflicted two more casualties. The same troops were said to suffer two more casualties in a mined area on 4 November.

An FMLN unit was also said to have seized the town of Los Hernandez in Canton Matasano, Cabanas Department on 4 November. Four electric towers were blown up, interrupting a 46,000-volt electrical line.

Radio Venceremos on 6 November carries its weekly military report:

"During the past week, Radio Venceremos reported inflicting many casualties on the Armed Forces. The total number of casualties inflicted on the Armed Forces was 124, including an Arce Battalion officer who was hit in [word indistinct]. FMLN forces ambushed five military convoys along different highways throughout the country. During the week, two paramilitary members were captured. The FMLN respected the lives of these men and released them immediately, but confiscated their 3 rifles and 300 cartridges. We highlight the attack by our urban commandos on command staff installations. This attack took place in a San Salvador that is totally militarized, nevertheless, we managed to hit the top death squads members' central nerve. Guerrilla actions in the Metapan area increased during the week and our men ambushed soldiers along the Santa Ana-Metapan road several times. In Chalatenango, our men carried out continuous actions against 4th Infantry Brigade troops in El Refugio and other places in San Ignacio. We have already amply reported heavy clashes against paramilitary groups in San Francisco Canton, Cabanas Department, where we captured the aforementioned prisoners and confiscated their weapons. We carried out important ambush operations against military troops trying to transit the Panamerican and coastal highways in San Vicente and La Paz Departments. We also met the Belloso Battalion troops and caused their first casualties."

The station also reported that guerrillas attacked a section of the Soriano Battalion in Finca Las Mercedes and inflicted three casualties on the 1st Infantry Brigade troops, including a radio operator. An M-16 rifle was confiscated from the soldiers.

A rebel unit was said to have ambushed a military convoy along the coastal road near San Cristobal in the Tecoluca Jurisdiction, San Vicente Department at noon on 5 November. Our men confirm having inflicted 6 Army casualties.

Opposition Parties: Demands to FMLN Unrealistic

PA0611190389 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 27 Oct 89 p 8

[Text] Several opposition parties have described the government's demand that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) put down its weapons and join the country's political life as unrealistic and not serious.

In separate statements, the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), the Social Christian People's Movement (MPSC), and the National Revolutionary Movement

(MNR) said that peace must be achieved on the basis of a real negotiation and without setting conditions.

President Alfredo Cristiani and the Armed Forces High Command have adopted a harder line following their latest talk, which was held in San Jose, Costa Rica, and have demanded that the guerrillas put down their weapons and join the country's political life, offering in turn to guarantee the safety of the FMLN members and full respect for human rights. The rebels feel that these proposals are bizarre and unrealistic and would represent total surrender.

PDC leader Ricardo Perdomo noted yesterday that no one should demand that the FMLN put down its weapons because the process of dialogue is a broad one and has been designed to find a negotiated political solution to the armed conflict.

He pointed out that "I think it should be clear that agreements have to be reached during this stage of the negotiation and that, for this reason, it would be completely unrealistic to tell the FMLN to turn in its weapons and then sit to talk.... We feel that the negotiation should not involve a tacit surrender of the FMLN."

This is also the position held by the MPSC and the MNR, both members of the Democratic Convergence. They feel that the Cristiani administration should not trifle with the peacemaking process, but react with goodwill gestures to the population's yearning for peace.

MPSC Secretary General Ruben Zamora even asked all groups—after the dynamite bombing at his residence—to unify their views on the need for a peacemaking process, because "the real enemies" want it to fail.

He feels that those sectors are never punished for their crimes and that they are warning the government and the Armed Forces so they will desist from their peace effort and go on thinking that the guerrillas are playing a game to obtain advantages.

For its part, the PDC reasserted its position and said through one of its leaders, Gerardo le Chevalier, that the intention behind the acts of vandalism is to create insecurity and fear in the government so it will withdraw from the peace negotiations and continue accusing the FMLN.

Mass Organizations Establish New Alliance

PA0711002489 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] A total of 26 people's organizations, including cooperatives, labor unions, and other associations, have established the Democratic Peasant Alliance [Alianza Democratica Campesina], members of this new organization have announced.

This union of peasant and cooperative groups seeks to counter the current government's plans to implement the second phase of the agrarian reform program on an individual rather than collective basis, as the cooperative sector wants.

According to Orlando Arevalo, representative of ACOPAI [Association of Cooperatives of Integrated Agricultural-Livestock Products], the main tasks of this alliance are to consolidate the agrarian reform program's first and third phases and to implement successfully the second phase; defend its member organizations; obtain a cancellation of the agrarian debt; and, of course, distribute land among the peasants, who are the ones actually working it, and use the land more efficiently.

Mortgage Bank President Opposes Changes to Laws

PA0611195289 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Report by Mauricio Funes]

[Text] Mortgage Bank President Arturo Mason this morning warned that with the amendment to the banking laws approved yesterday by the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] deputies, the financial institution he heads is facing the risk of going bankrupt within the next few days. Mason said that the ruling party is trying to remove him from office to stop attachment procedures against a small group of persons who owe much money to that bank.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Will the Mortgage Bank go bankrupt?

[Mason] That depends. If they hinder our attempts to get our money back, then we will go bankrupt. However, if that happens, they will be responsible. Unfortunately, the Salvadoran people will be the ones affected by this decision. However, history is not written by us. [end recording]

This is how the president of the Mortgage Bank reacted when he learned of the amendments to the bank's statutes approved yesterday by the ARENA deputies. Mason said that with the changes made by the Legislative Branch, the president of the bank now has full control over the bank because he has been authorized to appoint and remove the president of that financial institution. According to the Salvadoran banker, this move is to stop the legal actions the Mortgage Bank is taking against a group of businessmen who owe approximately 900 million colons.

[Begin Mason recording] If the bank does not have the right to demand payment from those who owe, then all will be lost. Some officials are saying that the Mortgage Bank is bankrupt. I ask them: Why? Because we are not getting paid what we are owed. We are not demanding payment from clients who are paying on time. Clients who had not paid were given a chance to pay and we have already refinanced approximately 3,000 loans. Owing is not a generalized problem. It is a problem that affects a very small group of people. [end recording]

Of the 13,600 clients the Mortgage Bank has, only 3 percent owe 90 percent of the past due amounts. To date, this debt is divided as follows: 650 million colons in capital and 290 million colons in accumulated interest. Mason said that he began receiving threats the day he assumed office in 1987. For the past 3 years, Mason has been pressured to give up on his attempt to get clients who owe large sums of money to pay up and stop the bank's attachment procedures. He believes that the decision made by the ARENA deputies yesterday is more of the same pressure.

[Begin Mason recording] I heard that yesterday, after the amendment was approved, a deputy said: This does not end here; we are going to get Arturo Mason. I would like to know why they hate Arturo Mason. It is sad and depressing to see deputies approving laws without even asking the opinion of those who know about the matter. In this case, those who know about the mortgage situation are the ones handling those cases. [end recording]

Mason said that the ARENA deputies distorted the interpretation of the law when they insisted that Mortgage Bank officials be government officials. According to bank statutes, it is a corporation and the government has no say in the appointment of its president. Mason said that President Cristiani will probably remove him from office sometime next week. He added that if this happens, he will appeal to the Supreme Court of Justice.

Rey Prendes Opposes Changes

PA0711002389 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Report by Ernesto Rivas]

[Text] Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, leader of the Authentic Christian Movement, said that the changes to the Mortgage Bank laws approved yesterday by the ARENA deputies, are against the party's ideologies.

[Begin Rey Prendes recording] One of the arguments I used—not my own argument but it shows the contradiction in the way ARENA thinks—was that in the recent elections the Salvadoran people voted for the privatization of things, to give freedom to the institutions, especially, in this specific case, the banks. Suddenly we find that ARENA, for personal reasons—because they want to remove the man [reference to Arturo Mason, president of the Mortgage Bank]—is going against its own beliefs. If they are trying to privatize the banks, then how can they approve a law giving the president the right to interfere in the only bank that was free of government interference? That is a tremendous contradiction, especially if in a year, or year and a half, they are going to submit the necessary documents to privatize the whole banking sector. [end recording]

This was a statement made by Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes regarding changes made to two articles of the Mortgage Bank laws. These amendments give the president of the republic full power to appoint and remove the president of the Mortgage Bank. Rey Prendes said that his party, with representation within the Legislative Assembly, is against the amendments that were approved only by the 32 votes held by ARENA.

[Begin Rey Prendes recording] We do not agree with this and we said it simply because this decision had—how can we say it?—a name: Arturo Mason is the name of yesterday's amendments. A law cannot be passed to benefit or affect a person. Laws are of a general nature. They are for everyone and are supposed to last as long as they are valid.

[Reporter] Who is demanding that this be done?

[Rey Prendes] I do not know. All I know is that the law was changed to give the president the power to remove the president of the bank. [end recording]

Rey Prendes sees two negative effects to these amendments. He feels that once the amendments are implemented the coffee and cattle associations—two of the associations that founded the bank—will lose a share of power. He also feels that this could provoke a reaction. Rey Prendes said that the Mortgage Bank will also stop operating as it had, with a system that was completely different from the other banks in the country.

Guatemala

U.S. Nun Kidnapped in Antigua 2 Nov

Archbishop Reports

PA0311170289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1623 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan Archbishop Prospero Penados del Barrio today reported the kidnapping of a nun, Diana Mack Ortiz, 20 years old, born in the state of Colorado in the United States of America.

The archbishop also reported that another U.S. nun, Patricia Denny, left Guatemala 17 days ago because of continuous death threats over the telephone and in writing.

Penados said Diana Mack Ortiz was kidnapped on 2 November in Antigua Guatemala, 45 km south of Guatemala City, when she was attending a seminar along with other nuns. The archbishop explained the nun had been receiving death threats. She had been urged to leave Guatemala, but she decided to continue working in this country.

The kidnapped nun, who had been in Guatemala for a year, was teaching at the San Miguel Acatan Elementary School in Huehuetenango Department in northeast Guatemala. She belongs to the Order of the Ursuline, Penados reported.

Patricia Denny, 54, left Guatemala after unidentified men warned her that if she wished to continue living she

had to leave the country. Denny arrived in Guatemala in 1984, belonged to the Sisters of Mary Knoll, and was working at a parish in Mixco Municipality in southern Guatemala City.

The archbishop said all this is the "beginning of a campaign to intimidate the Catholic Church." He did not mention which groups are perpetrating these intimidating actions. However, Penados said he is going to talk to Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo today to report the incidents with the U.S. nuns.

Penados stated that this kind of action "harmed Catholicism very much in past years," when repression severely hit this sector. He pointed out that this kind of incident had not happened since President Cerezo took power in Guatemala on 14 January 1986.

The archbishop demanded that Mack Ortiz' kidnappers respect her life and physical integrity.

Nun Released, Leaves Country

PA0611162789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1528 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Margaret Diana Marck [name as recieved], the 20-year-old nun who was kidnapped on 3 November in the colonial city of Antigua, 45 km south of the Guatemalan capital, has left the country, it was confirmed by her congregation.

The nun, a member of the Ursuline Order, was kidnapped while in the company of other nuns in Antigua Guatemala; she was left, beaten, by her kidnappers in Guatemala City a day later.

Marck had been in Guatemala for a year and she taught at a small elementary school in San Miguel Acatan, Huehuetenango Department, northwest of the country.

Guatemalan Archbishop Prospero Penados del Barrio had previously reported that Margaret Diana Marck was threatened with death and told to leave the country, but she refused and decided to continue her work in Guatemala.

The Ursuline Order remained silent about the nun's departure yesterday, but it was confirmed by another member of the congregation today.

The source reported that Margaret Diana Marck traveled to Miami after receiving medical treatment for injuries the kidnappers had inflicted on her.

Marck is the second U.S. nun to leave Guatemala in less than a month. Sister Patricia Denny left 20 days ago after being threatened with death.

The Guatemalan archbishop said that the U.S. nun's kidnapping "marks the beginning of a campaign against the Catholic Church."

Archbishop Penados did not specify who is responsible for the intimidation, but he emphasized that this type of thing "caused considerable damage to Catholicism in the past," when repression hit that sector very hard.

Defense Minister Minimizes Latest Rebel Actions

PA0611192489 Guatemala City LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 25 Oct 89 p 23

[Text] General Hector Alejandro Gramajo Morales referred to the harassment of the military post in Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa, Escuintla, and said that guerrilla groups have tried to reassemble their forces, but are not capable of carrying out armed attacks against a military installation.

Gramajo Morales said that the only goal achieved with these actions is to get press coverage, because they only threw a bomb about 300 meters from the post and fired some shots from 1,000 meters away. Gramajo Morales stated that the shots did not hit the military post, only some houses.

The Defense Minister stated: We can confirm that the rebels are not capable of a direct confrontation with government forces. In fact, only a small number carried out the harassment, yet they want people to know they are still around.

They have also tried to carry out their actions against some of our distant military posts—for example in Balanjuyu Hill, Chimaltenango—but they can hardly accomplish anything. What they really want is to let the national and international media know they are still around.

Gramajo Morales said, when referring to the three soldiers kidnapped by antigovernment forces in Peten: Imagine what a heroic military action it is to kidnap three soldiers who are on leave visiting their families, dressed as civilians and unarmed, just because they are identified as soldiers.

We are sure that the rebels will use this for publicity purposes, and even might propose an exchange of prisoners, the defense minister stated.

Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo said that the guerrilla groups that operate along the Guatemalan-Mexican border have stepped up their activities in recent months. Proof of this is the assassination of a repatriate who was a representative in the National Reconciliation Dialogue.

Gramajo confirmed that, according to the information given by the new representative to the National Dialogue, a relative of this representative was later killed by rebels.

These actions have shown the representatives of national organizations in the National Dialogue who does not want peace in Guatemala; who is not looking for a reconciliation; and who brings mourning to many families, Gramajo Morales remarked.

The Guatemalan Army is doing everything it can to protect the repatriates, particularly those of the Ixcan Zone, Quiche Department. Nevertheless, contacts with the guerrilla forces have been scant. Despite the efforts exerted by the engineering corps, the bridges and new roads have become the targets of rebels attacks, he said.

This shows that the guerrilla groups do not want progress and they do not want reconciliation, said Gramajo Morales, who was interviewed in his office at the Presidential Palace.

Honduras

Observers To Attend Sandinist-Contra Talks

PA0711041789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0343 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Honduran President Jose Azcona today notified his Nicaraguan counterpart, Daniel Ortega, that he will send an official commission as "observers" to the Sandinist-Contra negotiations slated to be held on 9 and 10 November at UN headquarters in New York.

The official decision was revealed in a letter the Honduran Foreign Ministry sent tonight to Francisco Lacayo, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Tegucigalpa. In the letter addressed to Ortega, the Honduran president reported that his government's official commission will be led by Roberto Martinez, the current Honduran ambassador to the United Nations.

Azcona pointed out in his letter that "in spite of the fact that Honduras is not part of the internal Nicaraguan conflict, I wish to reiterate that my government is not against participating in the announced negotiations as an observer." He emhasized that "these negotiations are bilateral, but my government wishes to comply with all the agreements signed at the Central American summit held last August in Tela (Honduras)."

Delegates from the Nicaraguan Government, the contras, the Honduran Government, and the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV) will participate in this meeting at the United Nations.

Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares were appointed witnesses.

Honduras was the last to agree to participate in the meeting, convoked by President Ortega and Azcona's decision contrasted with previous announcements by the Honduran Foreign Ministry which had stated that the country would not participate in the dialogue. Today the Honduran Foreign Ministry even reaffirmed that it would not participate in the dialogue because it does not recognize the belligerent status of the "contras."

In this context, Azcona's unexpected agreement eliminated the last obstacle to holding the negotiating meeting this week.

The "contra" delegation, headed by Colonel Enrique Bermudez, left for Miami today to make political consultations prior to traveling to New York on 8 November.

In a letter sent to the CIAV on 3 November, the anti-Sandinists proposed, as points for the agenda, the negotiation of a total and immediate cease-fire, an unconditional amnesty, and that they be allowed to send a commission to Nicaragua to verify, "on site," the compliance with possible agreements.

Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan Government announced that it hopes to make substantial progress in the demobilization process. According to the resolution of the last Central American summit, the deadline for the contra demobilization is 5 December.

Rightist Group Reappears, Denounces 'Communism'

PA0611170589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1712 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The ultrarightist Free Honduras Movement [Movimiento Honduras Libre, MHL] reappeared today in Honduras after being dormant for 1 year and called for "unity of the people to confront Soviet imperialism and communism in Central America."

In paid advertisements published in the leading Honduran newspapers, the MHL warned that the Cuban and Nicaraguan Governments and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador "continue supporting subversion and death in the region."

The ultrarightist organization alleges that "the communists are violating the recent Central American peace agreements, which call for an immediate stop to hostilities and abandonment of the armed struggle."

The MHL demands "unity among the free peoples of Central America to stop those who, full of hatred, selfishness, and personal interests, are trying to destroy freedom and democracy."

The MHL is a clandestine organization dating back to 1982, when the Honduran Anticommunist Movement [Movimiento Anticomunista Hondureno, MACHO] sprang up in Choluteca, 143 km from Tegucigalpa. The MACHO was linked to the disappearance of many persons between 1982 and 1984, and its public activities have centered on anticommunist propaganda campaigns and threats to opposition leaders it brands as communist.

The MHL was replaced by the Honduran Anticommunist Alliance (Triple A), which was more aggressive.

Leaders of peoples organizations and human rights advocates claim that "the MHL is one of a number of anticommunist shock groups that advocate suppressing the Honduran people."

Nicaragua

Contras Agree To Talk With Sandinists in U.S.

PA0611200289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1813 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The contras have changed their position and have now said in Honduras that they will negotiate with the Sandinists over a cease-fire in Nicaragua during a meeting scheduled for 9 and 10 November in New York. The Honduran Government, meanwhile, has reiterated that it will not attend the meeting.

Last week, the contras refused to meet with the Sandinists on 6 and 7 November and proposed 13 and 14 November as the date for the meeting. The Nicaraguan Government and the International Commission of Support and Verification [CIAV] rejected the date proposed by the contras.

CIAV is an organization composed of UN and OAS delegates, its task being to promote and verify the demobilization of some 12,000 armed anti-Sandinists who are in Honduras.

Commander Johnson, an anti-Sandinist spokesman, has said that "the CIAV did not accept the date and stated that the meeting must take place this coming Thursday and Friday." He said: "We accept this proposal, but our position on negotiating with the Sandinists a total cease-fire, an unconditional amnesty, as well as the authorization to verify in Nicaragua that there is compliance with the agreements, remains firm."

The contras' negotiations delegation, headed by Commander Enrique Bermudez, traveled to Miami today. The other delegation members are Renato, Mack, and Leo.

Although the contras have agreed on negotiating at the United Nations in New York, there is uncertainty about the meeting because Honduras has refused to participate in it. Honduran Foreign Ministry spokesman Eugenio Castro has stated that "our government has not changed its mind and will not send delegates to the New York meeting." He also noted: "We view the meeting with sympathy, but Honduras does not recognize the contras as a belligerent force and therefore it cannot sit with them to negotiate."

The Honduran Government's refusal to participate in the dialogue is in contrast with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's statement of yesterday that "the presence of Honduras at that meeting is indispensable."

In this regard Castro stated: "We respect his opinion but the Foreign Ministry maintains its decision not to participate.

Meanwhile, the contras reported today that three of its fighters died in recent hours as a result of a clash with the Sandinist Army in the department of Chontales. One of the casualties is the so - called Commander "Sin Fronteras," who headed one of the military units that were infiltrated into Nicaragua between August and October of this year.

Nicaraguan resistance sources have told ACAN-EFE: "We believe that in the next few days Sandinist brigades from Boaco, Santo Tomas, and Acoyapa will be attacking our forces in central Zelaya, Chontales, and other areas close to Honduras."

The contras have said they have detected a movement of Sandinist heavy artillery that includes 82-mm mortars, portable rockets, and 30-mm and 50-mm machine guns, along with the support of Soviet-made MI-17 and MI-24 helicopters.

Ortega Warns Contras To Seek Amnesty

PA0611172889 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] President Daniel Ortega has carried out a tiring working tour that began in Rio Blanco on 4 November and ended today in (?Limois), in the country's northern region.

The president's tour included several "Face the People" sessions, the inauguration of development works, and meetings with producers and religious authorities.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] In this municipality [not further identified], the president handed out agrarian reform titles. [Word indistinct], the president urged the counterrevolutionaries to put down their weapons.

[Ortega, in progress]... Nicaragua. I tell the contras: Look, do not be stupid. You are tools of the Yankee policy. Who are you killing? You are killing Nicaraguans. And what do you get from it? The government has an open amnesty offer. You can take advantage of the amnesty. Many contras have been taking advantage of it. So then, seek amnesty. However, let those who refuse to seek amnesty prepare themselves. Let them prepare themselves, because the Sandinist People's Army and the Interior Ministry have orders to strike until they finish off all the contras who are not willing to accept the amnesty and the hand which the revolution, which the Nicaraguan people, are extending to them. [end recording]

Contras Claim Sandinist 'Large Offensive' in South

PA0711031789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0216 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] San Jose, 6 Nov (AFP)— Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary leaders said in San Jose today that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] has launched a "large offensive" in southern Nicaragua with six battalions specializing in counterinsurgent warfare.

Francisco Delgadillo, "political adviser" of the southern front of the anti-Sandinist guerrillas, made the announcement during a news conference held in San Jose.

The contra leader asked the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV) of the Esquipulas II Peace Plan—made up of UN and OAS delegates—to visit the war zones in the Zelaya, Rio San Juan, and Chontales Departments to confirm "the continuous violations of the cease-fire by the Army" during the unilateral truce.

The Sandinist government last week suspended a cease-fire it honored for 19 months after claiming an increase in the number of contra operations.

Delgadillo said that "approximately 1,800" anti-Sandinist fighters in the south are not waging offensive operations, because "we want to have a chance for peace."

Delgadillo also denied reports contained in a communique that circulated last week in San Jose to the effect that the southern front does not support the presidential nomination of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

"We support Violeta's nomination," Delgadillo said, and he said that a "campaign of disinformation orchestrated by the Managua embassy in San Jose is trying to alienate us from President Oscar Arias."

Contras Report 511 Casualties Caused by Army

PA0611195689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1843 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan contras reported in Honduras today that during the 20-month truce its commando units sustained 511 casualties—427 dead and 84 wounded—during attacks carried out by the Nicaraguan Army.

The anti-Sandinists reported that the Nicaraguan Army inflicted on them 268 casualties between March and December 1988 and 243 between January to September 1989.

In the first report of its kind since the beginning of the cease-fire in March 1988, the contras accused the Sandinists of carrying out "criminal attacks" on their commando units.

The contras pointed out in their report that "the Sandinists have not complied with the cease-fire that they have talked so much about; they have never complied with it. We categorically deny that they ever did."

The contras currently claim that they have about 4,000 combatants in the Nicaraguan countryside who are being "pursued by the Sandinists and attacked with helicopters, air-to-surface missiles, and heavy artillery," the note adds.

Rebel spokesman Commander "Johnson" today reported that the most recent Sandinist attacks yielded 40 contra casualties.

He added that they are expecting the arrival in Honduras of an undetermined number of wounded to a hospital they have in Yamales, the contra headquarters in Honduran territory, 13 km from the Nicaraguan border.

Arce Interviewed on Attacks, UNO, Candidates

PA0611221689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Approximately 1,800 councilmen candidates were registered today by the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] at the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] by a commission headed by Commander Bayardo Arce Castano, vice president of the FSLN's executive commission. After the registration, Commander Arce spoke with reporters.

[Begin recording] [Arce, in progress] ....because LA PRENSA newspaper, which is the UNO [National Opposition Unity] mouthpiece, does not publish anything for any party. Meanwhile, at BARRICADA, we do publish the other parties' positions. It is true that BARRICADA maintains the FSLN's official position, but we do not close our doors to the other parties. LA PRENSA only publishes what the UNO says, it has denied the existence of some of the other parties, it has [words indistinct] others.

The government has carried out a study and found that, of the 180 UNO candidates, at least 15 of them were well-known Somozist officials; no less than 20 were Somozist accomplices, who held positions within the Somozist regime as a result of political patronage; and no less than 12 are murderers, or counterrevolutionaries guilty of murders. The more the people know about this—and that these people come from 14 organizations—the more capable they will be of assessing [word indistinct] the country can be governed by that almagamation that is trying to seize the power the people earned on 19 July.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Arce] [Words indistinct] this is what is happening. We have analyzed all these issues at 131 public conventions. Any reporter who had the patience to cover those conventions will know that we discussed the [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Has the FSLN made a decision regarding the cease-fire, Commander?

[Arce] The FSLN has nothing to decide regarding the cease-fire. The cease-fire is the government's responsibility. All I can tell you is that the FSLN is sure that the government will make a wise decision that will guarantee, first of all, maximum protection for the Nicaraguan people's lives and, second, protect the electoral process so that it will not be interrupted as the enemies of democracy in Nicaragua would like. It will also guarantee that elections will be held on 25 February.

You can talk with the comrade mayor of San Carlos who is here. Last night at 2200, a cooperative in San Miguelito Municipality was attacked. Five comrades were killed, one comrade is missing, and five comrades were wounded in the attack by a unit of 30 or 40 counterrevolutionaries. These are the realities of the war that (?is supposed to be stopped).

Who has been trying to stop the electoral process with military activity? The people who are financed by the Bush administration, which also finances the UNO. Who tried to postpone this registration? We did not. We are struggling seriously for the elections and have been the first to register candidates for municipal council positions. Who asked that the registration for candidates for deputy positions be postponed? We did not. The rightists were the ones who asked for the postponement, and we went along with them on that.

However, they are the ones who have been asking for the postponements because they are not prepared to lose. So, they are beginning to make noise about the elections because they are not prepared for defeat.

[Reporter] What would happen if, for instance, the UNO or any other political party decides to issue bonds to finance its campaign?

[Arce] They would have every right in the world to do so. They have every right in the world, as long as they do not violate the laws. We have had meetings. Let us see if they can get the funds we can get.

[Reporter] Commander, can you mention by name any of the various UNO candidates who you have said are criminals?

[Arce] Of course. Everybody here knows who has been a member of the counterrevolutionary leadership—Alfredo Cesar, Azucena Ferrey, Roberto Ferrey. All of them are criminals, are they not? Zacarias Hernandez, Alfonso Robelo, Fernando Aguero. All of them were leaders of the armed counterrevolution. Did they not sign the war communiques reporting when they had killed peasants? What should I call them?

[Reporter] What do you think of the statements by Senator Christopher Dodd about the president's announcement in Costa Rica?

[Arce] I fully recognize Senator Dodd's right to free speech, and I hope he will respect our right to free speech too.

[Reporter] Regarding the elections, [words indistinct] that it has been a political maneuver of the FSLN, which is afraid of the support the opposition has.

[Arce] That is what the rightist journalists say. I have not heard a single politician say that. I heard it on Univision yesterday and have seen the rightist press say so. The proof of it is that we are registering our candidates today. We are not asking for any postponements. We are struggling for the elections to be held on 25 February. Other people have raised the obstacles to the elections.

[Reporter] So, whether the cease-fire is lifted or not has nothing to do with this, right?

[Arce] What the cease-fire deals with is the murdering of people. Do the 19 bodies at Ciudad Dario mean nothing? Do the five killed yesterday in San Miguelito mean nothing? To us, they do indeed count. They were our brothers and, besides, those killed were our candidates for councilmen. So far, I have not heard anyone say a single opposition candidate has been killed.

[Reporter] However, how can elections be held under these circumstances—while people are getting killed?

[Arce] Why is it that elections are held in El Salvador, in the middle of a war, and the gringos call them democratic? Elections are held in Peru [applause] with a war in full swing, and the gringos call them democratic. Elections are held in Colombia, in the middle of a war being waged not only by guerrillas but by drug traffickers as well, and they are said to be democratic. Elections are held in Chile, amid guerrilla activity, and they say... [changes thought) We held elections in 1984 in the middle of a war, right? So, we do not think there is any problem. What these people wanted was for us to sit still because of the elections, and let our people be killed one by one. [end recording]

'Proof' of UNO, Contra Ties Presented

PA0711134089 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Nov 89 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Bermudez' Proclamation—Contra Is UNO"]

[Text] UNO [National Opposition Union] Manager Antonio Lacayo once again asked for proof of the existing ties between UNO and the contras and said: "We do not have armed sympathizers." Well now, BARRICADA obtained an original of this communique signed by former National Guard Colonel Enrique Bermudez which discloses the hypocrisy of Lacayo and his colleagues Alfredo Cesar and Virgilio Godoy, who yesterday defended the San Miguelito criminals during a news conference. Is there or is there not an alliance, a business, a partnership, a concubinage, a cohabitation, or whatever you want to call it, between the contras and

UNO? If that is true, as Bermudez stated, are UNO's political mercenaries accomplices to the contra crimes? If there is complicity, as the facts demonstrate, what commitments has UNO made with the contras in exchange for its mercenary backing in UNO's electoral campaign?

[Article is accompanied by text of aforementioned communique, printed with the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) logo, with the newspaper headline: "Further Proof of the Complicity." The document reads:

"Communique:

"Nicaraguans; I want to inform you that the freedom fighters are backing UNO's presidential candidates. We wish to convey our full backing and unconditional support for UNO candidates Violeta Chamorro and Virgilio Godoy because we feel we are practicing true political pluralism at UNO to have freedom of thought. The members of UNO are the fighters and the vehicle to conquer democracy in Nicaragua.

"I want to announce that when we met with the CIAV (International Support and Verification Commission) in our camps, I noted that the members of that commission favored the Sandinist dictatorship. I noticed their offers are a mere trap to exterminate us without allowing us the right to militarily defend ourselves.

"That is why we freedom fighters are not going to lay down our weapons and are not going to accept demoblization, because we are going to guarantee that the elections are honest and clean. That is why we will continue in the mountains of Nicaragua with our weapons at the ready against Sandinism. We are going to prevent Sandinist fraud. We are going to guarantee the UNO triumph. All the freedom fighters are ready to win the elections together with UNO and Violeta Chamorro so that Nicaragua can be a republic again.

"Enrique Bermudez Varela, negotiation chief (title as published), RN Army"]

UNO Spokesman on Jalapa Rally Incidents

PA0711024689 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Interview with Dr Antonio Lacayo, National Opposition Union, UNO, press and propaganda director by unidentified reporter on 31 October—recorded]

[Text] [Lacayo] People in Jalapa responded with much enthusiasm to the visit by UNO (?candidates). Some 5,000 people marched through the streets in Jalapa. UNO supporters marched peacefully. However, we must point out that at a house located opposite the Jalapa playing field, some 30 people harassed demonstrators and shouted all kinds of obscenities. The UNO followers ignored them and continued marching toward the site where UNO presidential and vice-presidential candidates were scheduled to speak. When Dr Virgilio Godoy was speaking and also shortly before he began speaking, some 30 people, some wearing military trousers, began throwing rocks at the demonstrators and to the [words indistinct]. People responded calmly and did not move. They were obviously afraid.

We must also note that was someone (?who) we believe is from the Interior Ministry was taking pictures. We saw that same individual harassing and intimidating people even after the event had ended. The fact that OAS observers including Mr Arturo Garzon were attending this event is very important. He had the opportunity to witness these incidents while observing the march.

We want to take this opportunity to appeal again to the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] Directorate so that it will instruct its militants, cadres, and security agents to stop these actions. We understand that the FSLN is worried because the developing political events favor the UNO and [words indistinct] the opposition candidates [words indistinct]. However, we believe that at this time we must avoid violence. Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has issued an appeal to [words indistinct]. We believe the FSLN should respect the people's will.

On 31 October at 0900 we will file charges before the Supreme Electoral Council and other international organizations. We regret this incident. We also deplore the aggression against the UNO National (?House). These incidents seem to be part of the FSLN political guidelines which we regret very much because we have taken this political campaign very seriously. We believe the only solution to the Nicaraguan problems is the civic one. Moreover, as I am aware that this newscast is monitored by the Interior Ministry, I would like to request that the Sandinist authorities be prudent because the Nicaraguan people want to see how we—for the first time—build a democracy with votes instead of bullets.

[Reporter] What activities does the UNO plan to carry out in the near future?

[Lacayo] The campaign committee has scheduled a rally in Somotillo, northern Nicaragua on 4 November, and another rally in Malpaisillo, Leon Department, on 5 November. These are the most important upcoming activities. Tomorrow, all regional representatives from the UNO campaign committees in every department will meet and hold a dialogue to assess the work carried out during the first month of campaign. These are the most important activities. Tomorrow, I repeat, we will file the corresponding charges at the pertinent organizations.

FSLN 'Confidential Document' for Cadre School

Part I: Economic Tension

PA0511155589 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Oct 89 pp 1, 12

[Part one of report on "confidential document" prepared by Bayardo Arce, deputy coordinator of the Executive

Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, for presentation to the FSLN National Cadre School on 26 August]

[Text] The inflation rate could drastically rise in the next few days, according to a confidential document prepared by FSLN militant Bayardo Arce that was presented to the so-called FSLN National Cadre School on 26 August, the day the Sandinist Directorate spoke out about "the great tension" the FSLN is experiencing as a result of the electoral process.

Arce views the first source of tension to be "some ultrarightist forces" that, according to him, are pressuring the U.S. Government so that it does not lower its guard in view of "the moves" the Sandinist revolution is making.

The economic strangling of the revolution is the "second source of tension for the FSLN." Arce dedicated to this issue one of the largest chapters of the document, which was obtained by LA PRENSA from Sandinist Directorate files.

The number-nine member of the FSLN Directorate confirms privately what he says cannot be accepted publicly, that the "economic adjustment program" that the Sandinists are implementing is an IMF-style program.

It has, he says, a "revolutionary" political basis, but its essence has an "IMF-style." The Sandinist agitator explains his decision to report this by saying that Daniel Ortega has "crudely" reported it in internal meetings.

The glass of milk at the schools program and the "AFA package" [Rice, Beans, and Sugar Package] are the revolutionary ideas that, according to Arce, are included in the IMF economic plan implemented by the Sandinists in Nicaragua at a high social cost and that hurt the vast majority of the poorest sector.

"The Current Situation and the Electoral Process" is the title of the document that recognizes the arguments used by the opposition, which claims that for such an economic adjustment plan to be feasible, international financial support is necessary.

Arce confesses that, in a desperate attempt to win the trust of the international financial organizations and the capitalist governments and to obtain fresh money, the FSLN implemented the plan without the necessary economic backing.

The FSLN knew that had it not been done this way, the FSLN could not ask for the help of governments such as the Italian socialist, the Spanish social democratic, the FRG social christian, or the Japanese liberal capitalist governments. The Sandinists knew that these governments would not help implement the plan that Arce described as a "Marxist - Leninist plan of the Sandinist revolution."

The strategy of presenting an economic feasibility plan within the framework of international economic relations apparently fooled no one and did not work, the confidential document admits.

Of the $250 million they needed, they only received $50 million. However, of the $50 million they got at the Stockholm Conference in May, only $20 million of the total was in freely convertible currency, the Sandinist activist adds.

In other words, the Sandinist government only had $20 million to implement the economic plan. With that $20 million, and at a very high social and political cost, the Sandinists have been been able to maintain the dollar exchange rate and curb inflation. The $20 million were released through the Central Bank and the exchange houses as a means of picking up cordobas that are in circulation and to support a new issuance of cordobas that the government is issuing to cover the country's expenses.

According to the FSLN, in addition to the $250 million needed to achieve an economic recovery, the government needs another $25 million to cover the election expenses.

The FSLN thought that the elections, to some extent, would be a business because, as Arce said, a whole bunch of people offered to finance the elections.

Arce disclosed that they got into the matter of elections in part because when they started asking around, a bunch of "enthusiastic" people offered to pay for the elections. Arce confessed that it was then that the FSLN decided to hold elections on 25 February to "offer democratization in exchange for demobilization. That is what we went to El Salvador to do—to negotiate. We offered to move up the date of the elections with all the guarantees for our adversaries. That is called democratization in Central American jargon," Arce said.

But the electoral process began before the issue of the $250 million needed for the economic plan had been solved. This heightened tensions within the FSLN, Don Bayardo added.

Meanwhile, of the $25 million needed for the elections, only $2.5 million, in equipment, had been received by late September.

All these factors together have the FSLN and the government in what Arce describes as a "dramatic" situation.

Because the problem of foreign exchange conversion to cordobas has not been resolved, Arce forecasts that in November everything may start to collapse, because in October government expenses begin to rise. This year, the increase was much higher due to voter registration on Sundays, which involved mobilizing 60,000 people for 15 days with transportation costs, food, and daily expenses.

The Sandinists had previously said that if by October they had not resolved the economic problems following several trips abroad by their directors, many things would need to be redefined, "because we cannot afford October's skyrocketing expenses," Arce told his closest "cadres." It is possible that the suspension of the cease-fire announcement or cancellation of the elections is in line with this FSLN redefinition in the face of the electoral process.

The document explains that beginning in October expenses stop going down and in December they increase. In September, they figured payment of the 13th-month bonus would amount to $4.5 million; therefore, they are going to need $4.5 million to back the currency they will print to pay the 13th-month bonus.

Arce regrets that some of the aid received during these last few months actually serves to increase expenses. He is referring to the 250 computers donated by the FRG, Sweden, and Spain; because, according to Arce, this donation does not include operator training or their salaries, which will cost $500,000 more.

Arce said that the FSLN is telling the Swedes, Germans, and Spaniards that if they do not come up with $500,000 in cash, the computers will be left unused in the warehouses.

More Unsupported Paper Currency?

The economic tension described by Arce reaches a point where he says that expenses may have to be paid using inflationary paper money. This would make inflation skyrocket, though, in Arce's opinion, inflation has been recently lowered and controlled.

If inflation is not controlled, they are aware that there would be a political repercussion among the population and against Daniel Ortega's reelection.

Arce believes that this economic strangulation is what could snatch power from them at the polls, which he says has not happened in 8 years of war.

But economic tensions are not the only tension: The FSLN feels cornered by other tensions that will be disclosed tomorrow in another part of this document, explained at great length by the Sandinist director, along with the guidelines set forth by the Ortegas to neutralize what they call "the great dangers of the electoral process."

Part II: Electoral Campaign

PA0511162189 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Nov 89 pp 1, 8

[Part two of report on "confidential document" prepared by Bayardo Arce, deputy coordinator of the Executive Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, for presentation to the FSLN National Cadre School on 26 August 1989]

[Text] In the second part of a confidential document obtained by LA PRENSA, activist Mr Bayardo Arce has revealed that the FSLN's commitment to the Salvadoran revolution and its full support for the cause of Panama's Noriega "to give him the ability to resist" are the FSLN's regional objectives.

U.S. reaction to this Sandinist policy does concern the National Directorate's activist, who admits that the FSLN's regional objecives have created tension between his party and other area countries to the detriment of Daniel Ortega's electoral campaign.

According to Mr Bayardo, this "juncture," which is disadvantageous for the FSLN, which is economically strangled and not viewed well at the regional level, justifies placing all the government's resources and instruments at the disposal of the FSLN's electoral campaign.

The "affected" are some of those government resources already at the service of Mr Arce. Among the Sandinists, the "affected" are all those government or state officials who have left their posts to join the campaign of the candidate of continuism, but who, nevertheless, continue to draw a salary, not from the party, but from the state budget of the central government.

The Sandinist leadership document reveals that the FSLN campaign structure was conceived as if the country were at war. This is the same modus operandi that was used during the hurricane,"giving no one the opportunity to draw up his own strategy."

As Carlos Carrion said, the basic unit of the FSLN's political work, at this stage, is the electoral action committee, which must be organized in each vote-counting board.

He explained that the electoral action committee at each vote-counting board is important because once the name and age of those who registered to vote is established, the committee can decide which action and strategy it will implement to take people registered to vote for the FSLN. The committee can also make plans to neutralize the message and action of their political adversaries.

The Sandinists admit that they obviously do not have the human resources to create an electoral action committee parallel to every vote-counting board. However, the municipal committee will make the decision because the municipal committes direct all electoral action committees.

According to the Sandinists' plan for the elections, the FSLN electoral action directors are also supervisors at the voting tables. This seeks to avoid having two different people at the voting tables, and to control the entire work and prevent "fraud." The alternate is the second in command and, if things are not working out during the voting process, "he establishes eye contact with the principal so the electoral action committee takes action and brings everyone to the polls."

The regional committee directs the work of the regional committees. In the various zones in the country people have been instructed to reproduce the FSLN National

Directorate electoral structure "because Daniel and I," Arce said, will carry out everything through the regional coordinators.

The structure of the FSLN campaign also includes a propaganda commission which has four subcommissions with "their own mechanisms." There is a Publicity Commission, a Political Information Commission, and Financial Commission. All these commissions are directed by the FSLN National Directorate, which is naming cadres to direct each of the commissions.

Vanesa Castro directs the Research and Training Commission; Ivan Garcia the Publicity Commission; Dionisio Marenco the Political Information Commission; and Alejandro Bendana the Foreign Relations Comission. Each one of them will report to counterparts [homologos]. Otherwise, the political secretary would go crazy, Arce said.

The Sandinist also have an Electoral Committee which is an organization created by the FSLN National Directorate to direct the whole electoral process. Although the Sandinist Directorate directs everything, the nine [commanders] have been alloted some of the work.

The Sandinists believe that part of the election campaign involves Henry Ruiz's efforts to obtain money, and this is the reason for his recent trips abroad. This campaign also involves that Jaime Wheelock and Luis Carrion will guarantee that production will not drop. Humberto Ortega and Tomas Borge, according to Arce, have been entrusted with making sure the contras are dismantled. "To all these little tasks, we have simply added a big one," Arce said, referring to the elections.

The "cadres" also participate in the Sandinist Directorate Electoral Committee and in the aforementioned commissions.

The Sandinists have also created the Institutional Commission to ensure that the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] is not alone. The CSE rerpresents a flank that we have to guard carefully, Arce explained. He added he has much confidence in Leonel Arguello and Mariano Fiallos, and total confidence in the Sandinist "cadres." However, it is not total confidence. [as published]

Therefore, this is the reason for the creation of the Institutional Commission which, for the National Directorate activists, represents a structure set up parallel to the CSE. This commission serves to monitor step by step everything done by the CSE.

This commission is entrusted with ensuring that the CSE isues the regulations, laws, and has done this or that, etc.

The Sandinist monitoring of the CSE extends to all regions, as can be inferred from the document.

The presence of the international observers is a problem worrying the Sandinists because "we can no longer say everything is just lies," Arce said, referring to the accusations and complaints by citizens and the political parties.

However, the main concern is basically that the Sandinists do not have confidence in their own people. The National Directorate, Arce said, will not stick its hands in the fire for a policeman, a State Security agent, or any Sandinist in the neighborhoods now that Nicaragua is full of observers.

Panama

Rodriguez Speaks at Opening of Indian Congress

PA0711024589 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2305 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Speech by Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez at the opening of the first Inter-American Indian Congress on Natural Resources at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] Mr Leonidas Valdes, first general Indian chief; Ruben Perez Kantule, San Blas intendant; ministers and deputy ministers; Panama Province Governor Doris Vargas de Rosas; Ligia Castro de Doens, national director of INRENARE [Institute of Renewable Natural Resources]; Guillermo Archibold, general coordinator of the Inter-American Indian Congress; Temistocles Arias, president of the Association of Kuna Employees; Indian delegates of Latin America; national and international observers; representatives of the local and foreign media; special guests; ladies and gentlemen:

I am very pleased to share with you the first few hours of this event, just as I will be pleased to learn about the results of your discussions. This is natural because you have traveled long distances to jointly discuss matters that are of vital interest for the Indian peoples, the communities that make up the Panamanian nation, and the national government, as well as the Latin American nations.

Consequently, my first words are to warmly welcome you to our country and to congratulate our brothers of the Association of Kuna Employees and PEMASKI [expansion unknown] as promoters of this important meeting.

These are vital matters because they involve dramatic aspects for our quality of life in the present and the future. To preserve, rehabilitate, and improve available natural resources, as well as to use them productively to improve the lives of the people in the community, and humanize the environment without damaging the quality of nature are essential objectives that are now more urgent than ever. However, it is also necessary to rescue and protect the rights that communities and people have regarding the natural resources of where they have historically lived and worked and to determine the methods that will help them improve their living

conditions and environment in accordance with their culture, needs, and experience.

Panama, like most Latin American countries, is a nation with many ethnic groups. It is a nation whose social structure is enriched by Indians and immigrants from Europe, the Antilles, and Asia. These are groups that share a common history and destiny.

Our development demands that all communities in our society offer the fruits of their cultures and initiatives to the nation. They must all participate in the decisions of the present and future of this Republic. In addition, each community must receive, from the rest of society, the solidarity and compensation necessary to solve their legitimate specific needs.

This is the participatory democracy concept inherent in our Torrijist system of people's representation. According to this Panamanian system, each community must democratically create its own form of organization to promote its development and appoint its leaders so that they will represent the community in decision-making tasks at the municipal, provincial, and national level.

In addition, each government agency must consult and coordinate with the communities on the decisions made and the actions that are to be carried out because it is not only a matter of decentralizing public administration, but of decentralizing government decisionmaking throughout the country.

We fully understand the Indian demand that each community has the right to preserve and develop the natural resources and environment of its territory because the Panamanian nation, as a whole, is facing a similar struggle. Panama's greatest natural resource is its geographic position. This resource makes transportation between the two oceans possible. Panama is located in the middle of the American continent and the Caribbean.

Since early in our history, big colonial and neocolonial powers have insisted on snatching away from Panamanians our right to enjoy this natural resource so that they could use it for their military purposes and control interoceanic communications. The great campaign of lies unleashed against the Panamanian Government and its leaders, the brutal economic and political aggression against our country that has caused so much suffering to our people, and the dangerous threats and military provocations aimed at intimidating us were prompted by our people's determination to recover this resource and our refusal to allow the colonialists to use this territory as a military base to attack or threaten other Latin American or Caribbean Nations.

The Indian people are also slandered in an effort to justify actions aimed at taking away resources from their territories. For this reason, Panama's struggle is practically the same struggle of the Indian people of this continent. [applause]

There are many ways to irrationally destroy renewable natural resources and damage the environment in Panama. This is something we must change and act upon. But, undoubtedly, the most dangerous aggression against the environment in our country is caused by foreign military activities, many of which are illegal and are flagrant violations of international law and the canal treaties.

For example, the U.S. forces carry out exercises with live ammunition, something that is not authorized or coordinated with Panamanian authorities and has resulted in the death or mutilation of several Panamanian citizens. They also carry out military operations that are intimidating and provocative in areas where there is a large civilian population. Many U.S. soldiers have been killed in the course of these operations.

In addition, areas near the metropolitan region, which should be national parks and productive industrial and commercial centers for national and international use, have been converted into aggressive military bases and areas of activities dangerous for the population. The existence of these military installations in Panama makes our territory a potential target for reprisals, thus subjecting our people to constant risks of great proportions.

To top it all, the U.S. canal administration permits the interoceanic transit of atomic waste and nuclear submarines and other weapons, disregarding the fact that more than 1 million Panamanians, which is ½ the country's population, live around the canal area. We are suffering this aggression and facing these lies used to denigrate and isolate Panama because we have rejected all these actions.

That aggression has curtailed a considerable amount of the republic's revenue, making it very difficult for our government to continue carrying out several social services needed to improve the vital and environmental conditions of the Indian communities and the rural population.

The alterations and deterioration of the environment and of the renewable resources are currently drawing the attention of not only the scientists and experts, but also a growing part of world political opinion. Both the destruction and contamination of the natural resources and environment are disrupting the ecological systems and seriously affecting public health to the point of causing death. The industrialized countries are basically responsible for this situation because throughout history they have looted the natural resources of the underdeveloped countries and their industries have contaminated the world we all share.

We are willing to do our part in order to recover and rehabilitate the quality of the environment, but the more developed countries must accept their share of responsibility. They must stop poisoning the atmosphere and the waters with their industrial and military waste. They must provide funds to contribute to the reconstruction of nature in the poor nations, as they themselves have

brought about the deterioration by amassing huge fortunes and ransacking our resources.

As for us, the history of the Indian people shows that it is possible to live in harmony with nature. This should teach us that continuous development can be done without exceeding the limits established by the ecological systems for improving the evolution of mankind and guaranteeing a more promising present and future for our peoples.

In Panama, we are working on a single program for the preservation, rehabilitation, and better use of the natural resources and environment nationwide through a specialized autonmous institution, INRENARE. The diversity of the other programs and activities are marked within this central program which considers strengthening relations and cooperation with community organizations and the nongovernmental organizations by planning and carrying out joint actions. Any initiative toward the conservation of the renewable national resources will have the decided support of the national government, as long as it is in line with the INRENARE guidelines and goals.

At a time of international economic crisis, and at a time when Panama is the target of a blockade and an economic and political aggression, it is necessary to involve all the communities of the nation—from the modest farmer to the great producers—in the appropriate handling, protection, rehabilitation, and rational use of the renewable national resources that are of interest to all Panamanians regardless of origin or beliefs. This makes it a priority task to improve and strengthen the environmental education of all of our people.

The state is not enough for this great, important, and beautiful mission in which all conservationist groups must play an important role. We want to work together with them in all aspects of the great task ahead of improving relations between man, the Panamanian community, and the nature that God gave this nation. Thus, I speak for the Panamanian people, as we again congratulate the organizers of this event, and I am proud to declare it officially opened.

Thank you. [applause]

Coup Leader's Widow Discusses Noriega

PA0711050389 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0325 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Interview with Adela de Giroldi, widow of Major Moises Giroldi, by Adolfo Ruiz; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Giroldi] I have decided to continue struggling against Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega and his cronies because I know my husband's task has not been completed. Noriega is a man without scruples; he has no soul or honor; he is a soulless man who wears a mask in front of the people. However, the mask has fallen off and we now know the kind of person he really is. I cannot forgive him for the way he has made the Panamanian people suffer; just as I am suffering right now, they too suffer the death of their dear ones. I understand that approximately 200 persons have been killed because of his actions. He has not been able to accept that his own troops rebelled against him because they know the kind of man he really is. He is a drug addict; he is involved in drug trafficking; and he is even a homosexual. He has no soul and he practices satanism. Such a man—a man who has sold his soul—cannot continue in the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and much less can he continue to control the country. This cannot be. I have confidence in the soldiers. I have my doubts about the officers because the command staff has allowed itself to be defeated. These officers have had the opportunity to participate in two coups against Noriega but they have not done so—this has been their choice. Many of them make plans; they are always planning how to topple Noriega. My husband took the responsibility of trying to do away with that man so people would not suffer so much, but he was murdered. Therefore, I will continue the struggle. This is not the end because I know that Noriega's days are numbered. He will loose this battle because he practices satanism. Right now, Noriega's hours are numbered; I do not say days because he is already living on extra hours.

[Ruiz] You always refer to the soldiers but the officers presently must also be feeling or suffering the pressure of their troops. These soldiers are hungry because they have no wages, shoes, or uniforms. At one point, these soldiers have to complain to their superiors. Do you believe this situation can cause an explosion in the Armed Forces during the coming hours? [as heard]

[Giroldi] I believe so. There are troops loyal to Noriega although they are only a few and are corrupt. The good officers know this is so. The troops—from sergeant to the lower ranks—also know it. I trust the soldiers more. You know why? My husband always told me these soldiers have been trained in such a manner that they do not require the guidance of an officer. The soldiers are the ones who are suffering the most. Most of the officers live well and are enjoying a good life. The soldiers are not well attended, which is why I am confident that one of them will stage a coup. It will benefit them because once the troops turn against Noriega and his corrupt officers, they will then be able to elect the man who is going to command them and if, in the future, that man returns to [word indistinct], they are the ones who can again take action against him.

I want to say something to those who say they oppose the government: Please do not think all the soldiers or officers who work for the FDP are the same. Not all of them are corrupt; not all of them were cast in the same mold. I would like the forces opposing the government to cease all resentment and hatred against those who support Noriega—quote, support, unquote—because those people have no other choice. Otherwise, those people

would be dismissed from their jobs or would be persecuted, as is happening now. People who say they are in the opposition should oppose Noriega and not the people, who are also suffering. Please, if those people who oppose Noriega believe there is a God and there is someone as evil as Noriega—who is causing so much harm—then do not feel hatred toward the people and do not feel so much resentment and hatred. Please understand that those people are confused and blind. Have mercy on them.

To the extent the opposition feels resentment and wants to seek revenge and do this and do that, and want to end up with this or that and avenge so-and-so, they are strengthening Noriega with their hatred because he is sowing division. As long as Noriega has people divided, he will remain in power. To the extent people forgive others and understand that many people are confused, to that same extent Noriega's power will be diminished.

[Ruiz] Mrs Giroldi, what kind of favors, benefits, and assistance do officers receive from Noriega that troops do not. For example: participation in businesses, in huge enterprises, big bids. Are officers receiving any help, aid, advantages? Do soldiers benefit from that?

[Giroldi] Very few soldiers benefit from that; the only ones who do are those close to the officers involved in that kind of corruption. What do they get? Those people are also allowed to participate in drug trafficking, in the deals to give visas to Cubans, and in the businesses. Those are the kinds of benefits derived from using his name. Those are the kinds of benefits they enjoy. Officers who are on good terms with Noriega are surely involved in drug trafficking. No doubt they are involved in drug trafficking.

I am going to tell you something: Long before my husband died, he shared his concerns with me because Colonel Cordoba, Luis Papo Cordoba as he is known, sent a messenger to him—at that time Major [Federico] Olechea—asking my husband who he would support in the event Noriega died. He asked if my husband would support the group of [Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo] Madrinan, Olechea, Papo Cordoba, Major Delgado, and other officers who composed the CEM [Strategic Military Council]. They were attempting to do something at that time to retain power along with the group of other colonels in the high command. Papo Cordoba, who was a major at that time, sent this question to my husband. They approached my husband on several occasions on this subject. My husband told me: I think Cordoba wants to stage a coup d'etat against the general. Can you imagine that? They—Papo Cordoba and many others—are conspiring because they want to be generals. Not one of them can command the FDP, because they are all corrupt people involved in drug trafficking. Soldiers and officers who are not involved in such deals will not allow that man to govern them if Noriega is ousted. I belive his days are numbered. This is a concern I have.

[Ruiz] Adela, you frequently mention the word satanism. Could you expand on that, because in the last few days, the dictator has been very worried following Guillermo Endara's statement in Costa Rica that the dictator would only leave the garrisons in wooden pajamas, that is, in a coffin. Noriega has been seen recently in processions, singing and praying [word indistinct]. How would this fit in with the satanism that you have mentioned?

[Giroldi] There is a woman who was raised with him named Casimir Tejada, also known as Caisy de Tejada in PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] circles. On many occasions, this lady told me and my husband that Noriega was involved in satanism, in withcraft, and so forth.

Furthermore, three of the soldiers who were inside the FDP headquarters when there was shooting told me they fired rockets and grenades and shelled the place where Noriega was, yet he came out alive, just brushing the dust off. The soldiers themselves told me that the man practices satanism. My husband once told me something similar to this. Other persons have also said this.

With everything I have seen and heard, I am more than positive that he practices satanism. Why do you think he goes to mass? Why do you think he mocks the saints? Simply because, as long as people join him in prayer, he is gaining strength. That is all. That is the way satanism is practiced [words indistinct].

The people who practice satanism use the same great dates that honor important saints for their own worship and to renew their strength. That is why I am asking the Panamanian people to pray, to pray to God to put an end to that beast. The people must pray to God, but they must not ask for his death, because this helps him. I have prayed to ask God to forgive him.

I have forgiven him for murdering my husband. I leave that in God's hands. God is the only one who can decide now what will be the end of Noriega. I have forgiven him and I will continue to forgive him, because he is a mass of flesh without a soul. He sold his soul to the devil, and we must forgive people like that.

I ask the Panamanian people to pray for his soul, because he sold his soul for wealth and power. The people must pray and forgive him. Believe me, if we pray with faith, if we pray for forgiveness, we will very soon see Noriega fall. All of his strength will be lost the moment people understand and forgive.

Opposition Alliance Message on Independence Day

PA0611191489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Nov 89 p A-7

[Paid advertisement of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance: "On the day of the fatherland...to all Panamanians"]

[Text] The most important action that the people of the isthmus have just carried out by their own will....

We hope for the establishment of a true republic where tolerance will prevail, where laws will be respected by the people and by the leaders, where effective peace is free, where there is harmonious respect for all interests and all activities—in sum, where there will be civilization and progress.

As we begin life as an independent nation, we understand very well the responsibilities that this implies, but we have profound hope in the wisdom and patriotism of the isthmian people, who also have sufficient energy to work for a happy future without any risk or danger.

—From the manifesto to the nation of the Provisional Government Junta when Panama's independence was proclaimed in November 1903, which is endorsed on this sacred day by the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance.

Arias Calderon Comments on Possible U.S. Aid

PA0611172389 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] The Panamanian dictatorship is being supported by the Sandinists, the Cubans, and even Libya. Nicaragua and Cuba have sent weapons and military instructors to Noriega's Defense Forces. However, every time the United States tries to help the people and the opposition, the United States is charged with intervention and with meddling in the internal affairs of Panama.

The United States cannot help the people or the opposition. However, Noriega receives assistance from Nicaragua, Cuba, and Libya. We have asked Ricardo Arias Calderon, vice president-elect of Panama, if the opposition would be willing to receive a little U.S. help to topple Panama's dictatorship.

[Begin Arias recording] We do not intend to behave like General Noriega. We have different values and a different outlook on our country. We request from the United States the same solidarity we request from our Latin American brothers and the European democracies. We make this request from the perspective of our commitment in the struggle for democracy, which is a commitment based on internal and external peace.

We have made this commitment because we are Panamanians, because we want our path to democracy to be a Panamanian path, responding to the idiosyncrasies of the Panamanian people, whose history has never been one of organized violence.

We achieved our independence from Colombia without violence, and this has deeply marked the personality of the Panamanian people.

We do not expect from any country the kind of help that has supposedly been supplied on various occasions by Cuba, Nicaragua, and Libya. We know about weapons being given by Cuba in 1988 and by Nicaragua as late as May 1989. This is public knowledge. We also know about financial aid from Libya, and we suppose this may have been accompanied by other forms of help, but this is unconfirmed.

This is not the type of relationship we want to establish as the scope of Panama's international relations. We look for other types of relations with other outlooks and other values, because we are another kind of Panamanian, different than Gen Noriega. [end recording]

Ford on Current Situation, OAS Meeting

PA0611190589 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Report on interview with opposition leader Guillermo Ford by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Panamanians are experiencing anxiety and unrest, said Second Vice President-elect Guillermo Ford, who commented on the unjust dismissal of health workers:

[Ford] "I must mention specifically the grave incidents against doctors and nurses who have been dismissed. There is great tension between the regime and those distinguised medical groups.

"We also believe that public employees also feel intimidated, which is a type of psychological aggression, because they do not feel secure in their jobs. At the same time, we feel that the dignity of many public employees has been hurt by forcing them to go to public offices to do cleaning work and other things that really hurt the dignity of public employees.

"Tension has become general throughout the country. We in the opposition continue to advocate a prompt, peaceful solution so a democratic system can be installed in Panama as soon as possible to prevent more suffering, sorrow, and pain to our noble people."

[Reporter] Ford said that Panama celebrates its national holiday on 3 November but that the festivities are held in a climate of tension, sorrow, and pain.

[Ford] "We will not let anyone believe he is more of a patriot than others. All Panamanians are nationalists. We believe in our country; we struggle for the basic principles of sovereignty, respect for the Panamanian people's dignity, and respect and total compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties. I repeat: We will not let anyone refer to members of the opposition as traitors or with other adjectives, because we have clearly shown that the good Panamanians are those who love our fatherland and not those who are trying to (?destroy) it."

[Reporter] Concerning the resolution issued by the minister of government and justice ordering the closure of United Press International, UPI, Ford said that this shows how desperate the regime is; it is trying to silence the few independent voices that still remain, such as the press agencies. He expressed his satisfaction with the

government's reconsideration of the case and its recognition that this was another arbitrary action by reopening the agency in Panama. Ford said that right now, no media can say the truth in that country.

[Ford] "Thanks to Costa Rica's Radio Impacto, we have a means to reach the Panamanian people. It is shameful to admit this, but the television and radio stations are completely silenced for the opposition.

"Endara has not been summoned by the attorney general; he has not been summoned for any specific date. However, Endara is willing to respond immediately to any summons to clarify any statements he made in San Jose, Costa Rica."

[Reporter] Finally, regarding expectations of the upcoming OAS meeting on 13 November, Ford said that this time it is vital that OAS members speak loudly and clearly concerning the Panamanian problem.

[Ford, in progress] "...analyze, not only make unilateral proposals. The Panamanian Government must be heard, why not? However, based on what they know, the democratic Latin American countries should courageously, clearly, honestly, and calmly say why they do not have diplomatic relations with Panama; why they have kept Panama isolated from the Group of Eight; why the Panamanian Government said today in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that it fears it may be expelled from the OAS. They are simply expressing ideas based on worries, as when someone does something wrong and fears he will be punished.

"The problem is no longer analyzing the Panamanian problem, but adopting quick actions, so the government, the Panamanian regime, can understand once and for all that if we continue on the same path, we are heading to disaster.

"People are getting hungry and desperate, and it is a crime against the fatherland to continue to sacrifice our people, leading them to limits of desperation that could result in a confrontation among brothers.

"We expect from the OAS not just resolutions that will express the thoughts and feelings of the Panamanian people. We hope they will try once and for all to convince the regime that changes toward democracy cannot be postponed and that the mechanisms must be implemented as soon as possible."

Official on Increase of Anti-Noriega Broadcasts

PA0611220889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2058 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 6 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—The clandestine radio and television broadcasts against Panama's "strongman" General Manuel Antonio Noriega have increased "considerably" in recent weeks, Luis Romero Villalobos said today.

Romero Villalobos, who is the National Media Director of the Government and Justice Ministry, told ACAN - EFE that experts from the ministry and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] under Noriega's command "suspect" the broadcasts are being sent from U.S. military bases near Panama City and from "helicopters and vehicles with sophisticated equipment."

Romero Villalobos pointed out that four FM radio stations—including Omega Stereo, which is heard nationwide—were interfered with on 5 November with anti-Noriega messages.

Government and Justice Minister Renato Pereira ordered investigations of several places in Panama City where the technicians suspected the broadcasts were sent, Romero Villalobos added.

The media director feels that the transmissions are being made with "the complicity of the Southern Command" of the Pentagon, which has 12,000 troops stationed in the country.

Romero Villalobos confirmed that the widow of Major Moises Giroldi, leader of the foiled 3 October coup, delivered a message during an interference monitored on 5 November while an FDP program was being aired over a national television network.

The official feels that Mrs Giroldi's call for the Panamanian military to rebel again against Noriega was previously recorded in the United States, where she is living in exile, and the video cassettes were later secretly brought into Panama.

Meanwhile, an engineer in charge of an important Panama City radio station also affected by the clandestine broadcasts confirmed to ACAN - EFE that the broadcasts have increased noticeably since the day of the foiled military coup against Noriega.

The engineer confirmed that there have been as many as eight clandestine broadcasts on many FM and AM radio stations in Panama City, and they generally last a maximum of 3 minutes.

However, the televised interference with Adela de Giroldi's message on 5 November lasted over 15 minutes.

Today, Radio FM-99, which is heard throughout Panama City, was interrupted several times with clandestine messages against Noriega.

Foreign Ministry Envoys Voice Support

PA0611144489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 2 Nov 89 pp A-1, B-10

["Text" of "Tocumen Commitment" signed in Panama City on 28 October by 21 Panamanian diplomats]

[Text] The ambassadors and charges d'affaires of the Republic of Panama accredited to the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, having met in Tocumen District on 27 and 28 October, participated in an

"Analysis and Coordination Event" called by Foreign Minister Leonardo Kam. After having analyzed and discussed the stand of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, we have confirmed that Panama enjoys the effective and militant solidarity of the peoples of this region in its struggle for national liberation, in spite of the heavy campaign of disinformation launched by the United States with its political, economic, and military aggression against Panama.

We reiterate the commitment of complying with the inevitable task of maintaining high—in our respective diplomatic missions of Latin America and the Caribbean—the flags that represent the struggle for the sovereignty, dignity, and decolonization that the Panamanian people are waging under the direction of the provisional government presided over by Francisco Rodriguez Poveda and the Panama Defense Forces under the leadership of our commander, General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

We express that in complying with the Torrijist doctrine and in carrying out our functions in the foreign service, we will maintain our unyielding stand of supporting the economic and social demands of our people, and supporting the guidelines of our nationalist, independent, and nonaligned foreign policy.

To conclude, we declare our firm support for the new strategy recently launched by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry to end to the efforts of U.S. imperialism to isolate us from the brother nations of Latin America and the Caribbean. Tocumen, Panama—28 October 1989 For Panama, our lives.

Dr Eligio Salas, ambassador to Argentina; Gerardo Vega, acting charge d'affaires in Ecuador; Carlos Gonzalez, ambassador to Bolivia; Maria T. B. de Ritter, acting charge d'affaires in El Salvador; Jose de la Cruz Paredes, ambassador to Belize; Alexis Cabrera, ambassador to Guatemala; Victor Manuel Barletta M., ambassador to Brazil; Rafael Vargas Santos, ambassador to Haiti; Oscar Vargas Velarde, ambassador to Colombia; Carlos De Diego, ambassador to Honduras; Dario Arosemena, ambassador to Costa Rica; Jacinto Rivera, acting charge d'affaires to Venezuela; Manuel Orestes Nieto, ambassador to Cuba; Jacinta de Bayard, ambassador to Jamaica; Ricardo Moreno Villalaz, ambassador to Chile; Jorge Turner, ambassador to Mexico; David Pere Ramos, ambassador to Nicaragua; Augusto Villarreal, charge d'affaires in Paraguay; Jaime Serrano, acting charge d'affaires in Peru; Franklin Raymores, ambassador to the Dominican Republic; Jose A. Alessandria, ambassador to Uruguay.

Envoys to Europe To Meet on U.S. 'Blockade'

PA0611174589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1638 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 6 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Official sources reported today that the Panamanian Government will soon gather its ambassadors in Europe at a meeting, possibly in Spain, to analyze the means to break the U.S. diplomatic and economic blockade against Panama and to discuss relations with the EEC.

A high-ranking official told ACAN-EFE that the meeting will be held in Madrid. However, Foreign Ministry spokesman Jose Hernandez said the date and place have not yet been decided, although he did not discard the possibility that the meeting might be held in Madrid.

Hernandez explained that the meeting—similar to the one held here 2 weeks ago with Panamanian ambassadors to Latin America—will be held before the end of the year. He said one of the main goals of the meeting will be to discuss how to break "the U.S. blockade against Panama."

The 22 [as received] Panamanian ambassadors to Latin America met on 27 and 28 October with President Francisco Rodriguez, several cabinet ministers, and Panama's "strongman," General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Defense Forces.

The EEC has withdrawn several of its ambassadors from Panama and has suspended "top-level" diplomatic contacts with the Rodriguez government, which it labeled as "illegitimate." At the same time, it has expanded relations with the opposition headed by Guillermo Endara.

Presidency Minister Discusses U.S. 'Threats'

FL0611191589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] On the occasion of Panama's independence and despite Yankee threats and economic coercion, we interviewed Augusto Valderrama, minister of the Presidency of the provisional government. Valderrama is currently the youngest minister in Panama.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Nelson Notario Castro] Minister, in your opinion, how many free 3 Novembers—completely free, sovereign, and patriotic such as this one—will Panama celebrate?

[Valderrama] Notario, I think that as long as there is a single Panamanian with a desire for freedom, justice, dignity, and sovereignty, all 3 Novembers will be free.

[Castro] The Presidency Ministry decided to open the Palace of the Herons to the public. On this 3 November, the people have practically taken over the palace. In addition, this has also conveyed a message.

[Valderrama] Yes, I think....

[Castro, interrupting] It is a message without words.

[Valderrama] I think that while others speak about—quote, democracy, unquote—while others discuss—quote, democracy, unquote—we Panamanians are making our own democracy with the participation of the people. The people are making decisions. I think that it is more important to make democracy and to have the people participate in their own destiny than to talk about

democracy in Latin America. That is what is happening here in Panama today, 3 November.

[Castro] Thank you.

[Valderrama] Thank you and greetings to the Cuban people, your commander, and your revolution, which is an example of the dignity that all the peoples of Latin America look up to during difficult times as an example of the bravery of a people is willing to liberate itself. [end recording]

Vice President Ozores on Nicaraguan Elections

PA0611135289 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Vice President Carlos Ozores Typaldos said the Nicaraguan Government has every right to suspend the general elections scheduled for February 1990 if Washington continues to support that Central American country's insurgency. Vice President Ozores Typaldos, who is also president of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties, COPPPAL, added that if the United States continues its covert support for the contras, the Sandinists have the right to adopt measures they may consider most appropriate.

Dignity Battalions' Chief on CODEPADI Role

PA0611184889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] In response to the guidelines established in the proclamation issued by the institutional Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity [CODEPADI] during a recent meeting, members of the CODEPADI of the state-run enterprise Cemento Bayano participated in an administrative march through various towns located near the plant in Calzada Larga, Chilibre, accompanied by General Manager Alberto Luis Tunon, administrative personnel, and workers.

Camouflaged clothing, nationalistic slogans supporting a total struggle, and powerful rifles characterized the march staged by hundreds who participated in that demonstration of dignity and reaffirmation of combativeness.

At the conclusion of the administrative march headed by a courageous woman carrying the Panamanian flag, Enrique Thompson, second commander of the Dignity Battalions, delivered a speech to the compact contingent.

[Begin Thompson recording] Within the concept of overall territorial defense, each man, each Panamanian has a specific and special role to play in defending the fatherland. That is what the CODEPADI's stand for—to be ready to defend, fight, and give our blood if necessary.

We are in an organizational phase. At a recent meeting, we agreed to defend our territory in an organized way. We reached the conclusion that the CODEPADI's will be viewed as the reserve, and as a seed that must germinate each day to strengthen the Dignity Battalions. We will do that not just in Cemento Bayano and not just in institutions. This effort must also be extended to the communities, where the CODEPADI's are going to become forces capable of finding solutions to their own problems. [end recording].

During this activity for training and militancy, which was also attended by CODEPADI members of Casinos Nacionales, Panama City Municipal Hall, and the National Bank, CODEPADI coordinator in Cemento Bayano Hernan Hernandez called for strengthening the organization to become invincible.

[Begin Hernandez recording] As we organize ourselves in our work places and in our communities, we will be invincible, and never again will foreign troops trample over our territory, because our path, our goal, will be to see the last of the U.S. soldiers who now trample on our soil leave 12 hours before the year 2000! [end recording]

IMF Declares Country Ineligible for New Loans

PA0611140989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Gustavo Gonzalez, Panamanian planning and economic policy minister, has said the IMF mission that came to Panama to evaluate the government's finances is still in the country. Gonzalez said the IMF mission will be given a report on the situation; however, no new loans will be agreed to for the time being. Panama has a foreign debt of more than $4 billion and for the past 2 years has not been able to meet its commitments with the Paris Club, World Bank, IDB, and the IMF because of the U.S. aggression and economic sanctions imposed on our country since March 1987. As a result of this aggression, the IMF has declared Panama ineligible for new loans.

Argentina

Government To Protest Expanded Falklands Limit

PY0611164989 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Excerpt] In an announcement this afternoon regarding the opening of consular offices in the United Kingdom, Menem noted that consular relations with the United Kingdom will be resumed and dismissed discussions on the number of consulates because, he said, the matter is still under consideration.

Menem also confirmed the UK's decision to expand the territorial waters around the Malvinas Islands from 3 to 12 miles. The president added that Argentina will protest this decision, mainly at the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Cavallo Announces Consul to UK

PY0711001289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2328 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Nov (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has announced that Counselor Santos Goni will be the Argentine consul general in London, England.

Minister Cavallo made the announcement upon leaving the San Martin Palace, where he decorated Jacques Medecin, the mayor of Nice, France.

Cavallo added that at 1800 on 8 November he will announce the names of the members of the committees that will meet with British delegates in Madrid in February to discuss the Malvinas issue.

At that time, he will also announce the name of the Argentine businessmen who will soon meet with British counterparts in Montevideo, Uruguay to discuss matters related to fishing near the Malvinas.

Tucuman Province Election Results Announced

PY0711015089 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2102 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Nov (DYN)—The Interior Ministry released the latest unofficial figures on the elections in Tucuman Province this afternoon. Almost all voting tables have been scrutinized, and the results so far show 236,899 votes for the Republican Force and 201,190 for the Justicialist Party

The returns were announced at the Government House by Interior Secretary Oscar Fappiano and Institutional Matters Secretary Carlos Corach, who said that the party led by Antonio Bussi "has received the votes that were given to the Civic Radical Union [UCR] in the other elections."

With only 10 voting tables left to count, the figures show that the UCR has received 32,364 votes, thus earning 2 conventioneers, and the Democratic Civic Union [UCD] has received 21,737 votes, thus earning 1 conventioneer.

The Republican Force has elected 3 senators, 9 deputies, and 33 conventioneers, while the Justicialist Popular Unity Front [FREJUPO] has elected 7 senators, 11 deputies, and 24 conventioneers.

Of the 691,886 registered citizens, 496,801 voted. This means that 70 percent of the registered citizens have voted.

The two secretaries pointed out that the Justicialist Party has maintained the same level of support that it had in the 1985, 1987, and 1989 elections—38 points in the Tucuman elections—while UCR support has "decreased from the 40 points it had in 1985, to 6 points in the current elections." The conclusion reached was that many UCR supporters have now become supporters of the party led by Bussi.

Bolivia

Coca Crop Replacement Goal 'Impossible To Meet'

PY0711022089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0048 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] La Paz, 4 Nov (EFE)—It was reported today that this week the Bolivian authorities confiscated 84.4 kg of cocaine paste and 2.2 kg of cocaine hydrochloride, and detained 5 persons allegedly involved in drug trafficking.

The antinarcotics police have pointed out that the cocaine paste was confiscated in the Chapare Region, in central Bolivia, where 80 percent of Bolivia's coca leaf crop is harvested. Bolivia is the world's second largest coca leaf producer, after Peru.

Also in Chapare, 43 cocaine processing laboratories and 84 maceration pits were destroyed. In La Paz, 2.2 kg of cocaine were seized in three police operations, the source added.

According to official data, in Bolivia there are 62,000 hectares of coca in the best land of the subtropical valleys of the Andean mountain range.

This year, the Bolivian Government proposed to replace 5,000 hectares of coca crops with other crops. Mauro Bertero, the agriculture, livestock, and campesino affairs minister, reiterated today that it will be impossible to meet this goal, however.

According to Bertero, it is expected that about 2,000 hectares of coca will be replaced before the end of this year—less than half of the targeted hectarage.

The coca leaf producers have been refusing to stop planting coca, because they have still not found an alternative product for the same cultivation area that provides similar profits.

The United States has established the condition of annually replacing 5,000 hectares of coca crops for granting annual assistance of $25 million.

Brazil

Collor Assails Santos Candidacy, Sarney

PY0611192389 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2230 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Presidential candidate Fernando Collor de Mello's radio and television free time electoral campaign broadcast to the nation on 5 November—live or recorded]

[Text] I ask your permission, my people, to talk today with one person in particular, with the man who unfortunately is still the president of the nation. I would like to treat Mr Jose Sarney with elegance and respect; I would like to do so, but I cannot. I cannot because I am talking with an irresponsible, careless, disgraceful, and weak man. I want the nation to know that I am talking with an ill-meaning citizen, who does not dignify the post he holds. The Brazilian nation, my people, is shocked. So many generations have struggled in the hope of achieving this historical moment in Brazil. We do not deserve to be cheated by the ambition and the lack of grandeur of one of the worst presidents our country has had the misfortune to have.

I am talking to you, Mr Jose Sarney, about your maneuvers. What right do you have to disturb the lives of Brazilians and to try to transform the election of the first legitimate Brazilian president in 30 years into a comedy for a television audience? What right do you have, sir? It will be a good thing to jog the memory of our people: You have always been a second-rate politician, you have never been courageous, and you hitchhiked a ride into history by benefiting from a tragedy that aroused the country's emotions.

You, sir, are to blame for the country's highest ever inflation rate. You have caused the Brazilian workers' salary to erode. You contradicted the will of the people by insisting on remaining in office for another year. Throughout your years in government you lavished favors on your friends and relatives, one of whom is today being prosecuted for corruption. You mercilessly persecuted all those who disagreed with your methods and acts of government, as you did with me and the people of Alagoas because I was the only governor who opposed your tenure for a 5th year, your patronage system, and your self-serving methods.

And now, sir, when the whole country wants to see you leave, you derail the democratic process and endanger our institutions. Will you answer me, Mr Sarney? Why is it that you are leary of changes in Brazil? What is it that you are afraid of? Are you afraid of losing your privileges and benefits perhaps? Or are you afraid that your government might be investigated and probed? Yes, you have reasons to be afraid, because I will indeed expose your filth and I will jail the corrupt.

I believe that you are sponsoring the candidacy of one of your friends, although you know very well that his candidacy will be questioned in court because it is fraught with irregularities and illegalities. You, sir, are betting on chaos and confusion. The worse the situation gets the better you will like it. May God abort your sinister plan, which could bring the conflict into the streets, which could result in the use of force against the people, and which could give you an excuse for promulgating a new Institutional Act No 5 in which you will postpone elections and perpetuate yourself in power as a comic-opera dictator.

The political process is unfolding in an orderly fashion where the candidates tour the country and contact the people. The democratic process is being consolidated, and then here comes Mr Sarney to cause turbulence. The nation must be told that you, sir, vetoed the law approved by Congress and left open the issue of a candidacy registration deadline. You did this to allow you to launch in the presidential race a last-minute name that would guarantee your impunity and the impunity of your friends and relatives. With that measure, sir, you left the door open for personal ambitions to brutalize the presidential elections. But our people are not stupid, Mr Jose Sarney, nor are they blind.

The people can see that you have sponsored this scheme, plot, or deal involving the candidacy of Silvio Santos in the style of his crowd-appealing television show. In 5 years of government, sir, you did not give people housing, education, health, transportation—you gave the people nothing! You gave the people neither dignity nor bread, and now you want to deceive the people, Mr Jose Sarney, with a circus spectacle.

Do not harbor hopes, sir, our people will not let you continue in power, either directly or by proxy through this last-minute candidate.

With the end of your government comes the end of a sad chapter in Brazilian politics, and with the advent of my government this country will begin to change. Its institutions will again be impartial and respected; credibility and confidence in the political parties and public men will be restored. Brazil will resume its growth and Brazilians will again be proud of their country. The time of corruption among dishonest politicians will end. The time of the well-meaning men has arrived; our turn has come, Mr Jose Sarney!

Sarney To Meet Paraguay's Rodriguez on 10 Nov

PY0611152589 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0830 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] President Jose Sarney will travel to Foz do Iguacu, in Parana State, on 10 November to meet with his Paraguayan counterpart Andres Rodriguez. The two presidents will witness the official inauguration of the 15th turbine of the Itaipu Hydroelectric Dam.

Arianespace Wins Bidding on Brasilsat Launches

PY0611173889 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Nov 89 p 9 Economic Section

[Text] According to the EMBRATEL [Brazilian Telecommunications Company] public bidding commission's final report, the new Brasilsat system satellites will be launched by Ariane rockets, which are produced by the European consortium Arianespace. The selection was made in bidding separate from the process that selected the U.S. firm Hughes to supply the satellites. The Ariane rocket defeated the McDonnell Douglas Delta-II rocket.

The cost of a launch is proportional to the satellite's weight. The result of the bidding, not taking into account the launch cost or the interests involved in financing the entire project, was as follows: Hughes, $172 million; a consortium headed by the Canadian firm Spar, $225 million. The difference, therefore, was $53 million.

If financing interests are included, the price of the Hughes satellite was $404 million and the Spar was $508 million, for a difference of $104 million. If the weights were included the Spar satellites would cost $130 million more, because they are heavier than the Hughes version.

The Ariane will begin launching the Brazilian satellites in 1993 to replace the present Brasilsat A-1 and A-2. Arianespace will be declared the bid winner when the results of the satellite bidding are announced.

Colombia

Barco on Meeting With Judges, M-19 Agreement

PA0611163589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] During the ceremonies commemorating the 98th anniversary of the police force, we interviewed President Barco.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Is the problem of drug trafficking included in the document signed with the M-19 [19 April Movement]?

[Barco] It is possible. Why do you think the M-19 would protect the drug traffickers? On the contrary, it has always been said that they have nothing to do with drug trafficking.

[Reporter] People are criticizing you because you were so eager to welcome the soccer players, but not to meet with the judges. People say that now we have a good soccer team but no justice.

[Barco] Must be a play on words. However, it is not too important.

[Reporter] Are you going to meet with the judges?

[Barco] Of course, who said I was not going to meet with them?

[Reporter] When are you going to meet with them?

[Barco] They have not yet asked for an appointment. [end recording]

Regarding the government-sponsored television spot that has been shown for the last 2 months and that offers rewards for Pablo Escobar and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, the president said:

[Begin recording] [Barco] I do not know what you are talking about.

[Reporter] I am talking about the television spot on the drug traffickers.

[Barco] I have not seen it.

[Reporter] It is on television every day every hour on the hour.

[Barco] You reporters do not leave me any time to watch television. [laughter] [end recording]

Government Announces Participation in ONUCA

PA0711044689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0008 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota, 3 Nov (EFE)—Nine Colombian delegates, most of them military men, will take part in the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) to verify compliance with the peace treaties signed in Equipulas [Guatemala] in 1987.

It was officially announced today in Bogota that in addition to Colombia, the FRG, Australia, Spain, Italy, and Venezuela are also participating in the ONUCA.

The observer group, created at the request of the Central American presidents during a meeting in Tela (Honduras) in August, must "prevent any attack by land, sea, or air" in Central America," the source added.

The group will also verify compliance with the agreements, which call for halting the supplying of rebel groups in the area and for not permitting the use of the territory of any state to attack another.

The observer group must also supervise "on site" the borders and areas of conflict. It must also investigate reports of violations of the agreements before the end of the year.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar informed the member nations that they will play a preventive and if necessary deterrent role.

The observer group, which was approved by the UN Security Council, will have its headquarters in Honduras and will work with a $41 million budget for a period of 6 months.

The group is made up of 30 civilian officers working under a commander who will come directly under the United Nations.

Since international mediation in the Central American conflict began in 1983, at least four extraregional groups—"Contadora," "the Group of Eight," the OAS, and now the United Nations, have acted as "observers" in the area, where wars afflicting several countries have lasted for the past 10 years.

DAS Director Discusses Galan Assassination

PA0611170089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Report by Ricardo Canon—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] For the first time since the assassination of politician Luis Carlos Galan, one of the authorities heading the investigation confirmed that drug trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha was one of the masterminds.

DAS [Administrative Department of Security] Director General Miguel Maza also confirmed that the perpetrators are among those captured:

[Maza] "The captured individuals confessed that they are from those areas, especially Pacho; they worked for the drug trafficker who is also known as 'the Mexican.'"

[Reporter]" Does this mean Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, alias 'the Mexican,' is the mastermind?"

[Maza] "As of now, we believe he is one of them. We do not rule out that others were also involved."

Gen Maza will reveal further results of the investigation in less than 15 days. He also reported that at least 20 hired assassins were involved in Galan's assassination.

[Maza] "It was a very well-conceived plan. Apparently, five groups of hired assassins, who were working separately and were unaware of each others' actions, were after a common goal—Dr Galan's assassination."

In view of criticism that the protection afforded to presidential hopeful Luis Carlos Galan on the day of his assassination was inadequate, Gen Maza pointed out that this criticism is unfounded.

[Maza] "The investigation has confirmed that the bodyguards' work and the measures adopted by civilian and police authorities in Soacha Municipality were quite good; they were complemented with other measures."

The ranking officer made these statements today during a special ceremony to retire and decorate DAS officers with 10 to 30 years of service and to pin the DAS badge on the ambassadors of the United States, Great Britain, and Ecuador, and the president of the Occidental Company of Colombia.

Paraguay

Correction to Higher Budget Wanted

PYO311214189

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Higher Budget Wanted," published in the 3 November Latin America DAILY REPORT on page 27, column one.

Paragraph one, line two reads: ...minimizing the conflict within the ruling Colorado... (substituting the word "within" for "with").

Same paragraph, penultimate line reads: ...the Defense Ministry.... (substituting the word "Ministry" for "Minister").